

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

ZONE

MIDLANDS EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2016
ISSUE 233

SUMMER OF PRIDE

A ROUND-UP OF LAST MONTH'S
LGBT EVENTS ACROSS THE
MIDLANDS & MORE...

JOAN COLLINS

BRINGS HER NEW SHOW TO
THE MIDLANDS THIS MONTH

OUT

THE ESSENTIAL
NIGHTLIFE +
CLUBBING GUIDE



NEWS

VIRAL

FASHION

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GROOMING

WHAT'S ON

COMPETITIONS

A GOLDEN OLYMPICS FOR TEAM GB!

WE LOOK AT THE HOTTEST
& NOT SO HOT MOMENTS
OF LAST MONTH'S
OLYMPICS...





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 sexualhealth@blgbt.org

 0121 643 0821

 umbrellahealth.co.uk

 0121 237 5700

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Part of

What's On
MAGAZINE GROUP

Offices:
Wynner House,
Bromsgrove St,
Birmingham B5 6RG
and
13-14 Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE

Get connected.



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Editor-in-Chief & Publisher: **Martin Monahan** Editor: **Ryan Humphreys** ryan@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281722

Sales & Marketing: **Lal Woodhouse** lel@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281703 **Chris Horton** chris.horton@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281704

Admin/ Subscriptions: **Adrian Parker** adrian.parker@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281714 **Managing Director: Davina Evans**

Graphic Designers: **Lisa Wassell, Chris Altherton** Accounts Administrator: **Julia Perry** julia@whatsonline.co.uk 01743 281717



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10 LGBT MOMENTS FROM

So the Olympics are over for another four years, but what a fantastic time Team GB had in Rio, amassing an impressive 67 medals in total - the most Great Britain has won in over 100 years. They even managed to finish second in the medal table, behind the United States but above global powerhouse China, beating them by just one gold medal.

Here, we take a look at 10 LGBT moments from last month's games in Brazil - from the good, right down to the bad...

TOM DALEY & DANIEL GOODFELLOW win diving bronze

Team GB diving duo Tom Daley and Daniel Goodfellow won a bronze medal in the men's 10-metre synchronised diving event, despite some fierce competition.

China's Chen Aisen and Lin Yue won gold, whilst the USA's David Boudia and Steele Johnson took silver.

Posting on Facebook, Tom Daley said "I can't believe it!" whilst also telling his diving partner how proud he was of him.

The duo were watched in the stands by Daley's mother, Debbie, and his fiancée, Oscar-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black.

Sadly, Tom didn't do as well in his individual 10-metre competition, coming last in the final after beating his personal best in the semi-final.



KATE & HELEN RICHARDSON-WALSH make Olympic history



Kate and Helen Richardson-Walsh made sporting history last month when they became the first same-sex couple to (a) compete in the Olympics and (b) win gold!

The pair were part of the Great Britain field hockey team, who claimed top spot by defeating the Netherlands 2-0 in the final.

The couple got married three years ago after being teammates for almost 20 years. A big well done to both of them!

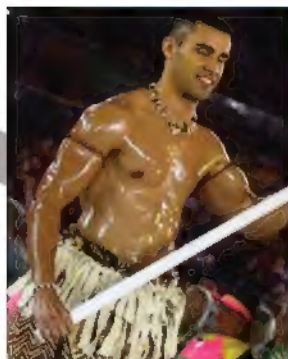


NICOLA ADAMS retains flyweight boxing crown

Bisexual flyweight boxer Nicola Adams retained her Olympic crown in Rio by winning gold (defeating France's Sarah Ourahmoune).

She's the first British boxer in 92 years to achieve the feat, making her the most accomplished amateur boxer in Great Britain!

THIS YEAR'S OLYMPICS!



TONGA TOTTY!

Tonga flag bearer and professional Taekwondo athlete Pita Taufatofua's oiled-up body sent social media crazy during the opening ceremony!

The 32-year-old was the head of his country's procession and wore just a necklace and traditional ceremonial dress. Oh, and lots and lots of oil!



TEAM LGBT WIN!

An amazing 35% of all out LGBT athletes won medals during the Rio Olympics - more than at London 2012.

Out of a record-breaking 53 openly LGBT athletes, 19 won a medal - five golds, six silver and three bronze.

If Team LGBT were on the medal table, they'd be 17th overall!



"HE SAID YES!"

Team GB race walker Tom Bosworth got down on one knee to propose to his boyfriend Harry - who replied with a yes, of course!

Tom finished sixth in his event, which saw him complete a 20km race walk. Congratulations, guys!



"SHE SAID YES!"

Tom Bosworth wasn't the only one to propose at the Rio Olympics!

Marjorie Enya, who works at Rio's Deodoro Stadium, chose to propose to Brazilian rugby player Isabella Cerullo following her rugby 7s team winning gold.

So emosh!



ANTI-GAY ABUSE

Athletes at the Olympics who are openly gay were reportedly targeted with homophobic abuse from the crowd.

Megan Rapinoe, from the US women's football team, reported that she heard 'bicha' being chanted from the crowd, which is a Portuguese word similar in meaning to the English 'faggot'.



OUTING ATHLETES

Straight Daily Beast reporter Nico Hines set up a Grindr profile to track down gay athletes for an article in which he then published their nationalities and their sport - making them easily identifiable.

The Daily Beast later pulled the article and issued an apology after many complaints.



BARE BUM FOR NICO

Tonga's openly gay Olympian, Aminu Fonua, responded to Nico Hines' Daily Beast article by bearing his bum for all to see on Instagram.

He said: "If what you were looking for on Grindr was hot ass, here, you have mine in all its proud glory. Now, kiss it and **** off."

Well done, Aminu! We love you!

Medal Table

		Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
01	United States	46	37	38	121
02	Great Britain	27	23	17	67
03	China	26	18	26	70
04	Russia	19	18	19	56
05	Germany	17	10	15	42

STEVE NALLON

The gay actor talks to Zone about playing Margaret Thatcher in Jonathan Maitland's story of loyalty, love, political morality and Britishness...



On 13 November 1990, Geoffrey Howe delivered the fatal blow to Margaret Thatcher's premiership with a devastating resignation speech that sent shockwaves through parliament. His attack was uncharacteristic and almost entirely unexpected: such was Howe's reputation for quietness and docility that his Labour opponent Denis Healey once likened criticism from him to "being savaged by a dead sheep".

So *Dead Sheep* became the title of Jonathan Maitland's first play, inspired by the turbulent relationship between the Iron Lady and this 'mouse that roared'. Arriving at the Birmingham REP this month and then visiting the Coventry Belgrade in October, the production stars James Wilby as Geoffrey Howe, alongside Spitting Image's Steve Nallon as Thatcher.

"I remember watching Howe's speech at the time and just thinking, 'She's toast!'" Nallon recalls. "One of the great dramatic points is that there's a rule that you can't be heckled when you're making a resignation speech from the government. So here was an ideal opportunity for this very quiet man to say exactly what he wanted, and he stabbed her, and you can see it on her face. We do most of the speech in the play, and when we do that scene, it's electric! It puts the audience right in the House of Commons."

Well before Howe's final decision to leave the Cabinet, tensions had been growing between him and Thatcher. Having previously served as both Chancellor of the Exchequer and Foreign Secretary, he regarded the offer of Home Secretary in the Prime Minister's 1989 cabinet reshuffle as a demotion - a punishment for disagreeing with her on key foreign policy decisions. He turned down the position, instead becoming Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House of Commons.

"She was much crueller than I thought," says Nallon of Thatcher. "When she moved Geoffrey out of the Foreign Office, she basically fired him, and took away his home, because when you're Foreign Secretary you get a grace-and-favour country house. Apparently, the way she took it away from him was quite spiteful. I think what the play makes clear is that Prime Ministers are very, very powerful. They're the ones that appoint and shape the government, and we're seeing it again at the moment with Theresa May."

Of course, as it turned out, far from chastening him, Thatcher's snub pushed Howe to

kick back with a response that would ultimately be her own undoing. Among Howe's main motives for resigning was the Prime Minister's undermining of EMU (Economic and Monetary Union of the European Union) policies proposed by the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England.

"It's rather like sending your opening batsmen to the crease," Howe said of her interference, "only for them to find, as the first balls are being bowled, that their bats have been broken before the game by the team captain."

At the time, disputes over what the extent and nature of Britain's involvement in Europe ought to be caused massive rifts within the party which continue to this day: the conversations that finally brought about a referendum on Britain's EU membership in 2016 actually began decades earlier.

"I'm 55 now and I've been aware of the arguments about Europe since I was a kid," says Nallon. "Britain first tried to join the common market, as it was then, back in the 1960s. Had the referendum vote been to remain, I think that would have been it - Dead Sheep would have become a museum piece. But with the prospect of Brexit, the play feels very contemporary, and the philosophical arguments about Britain's place in Europe and the world just buzz with excitement."

Nevertheless, the way Jonathan Maitland's play tells it, the Europe question was only part of the wider story of Howe's clashes with his party leader: a much longer-running conflict of loyalty also helped to spur him on to his momentous decision.

"It became very clear that Geoffrey Howe's wife and Margaret Thatcher really hated each other," Nallon explains. "Howe was obviously loyal to his wife, but he also had great loyalty to Thatcher, so he was torn between the two of them, and that became the basis of the play. When I spoke to Jonathan Maitland about who had influenced him as a writer, he mentioned Terence Rattigan, who wrote plays that were very talky and also very human, often on big themes like loyalty. I think you can see that influence in Dead Sheep."

Though physically portraying Thatcher for the first time in this play, Nallon is certainly no stranger to capturing the way she sounds. Having made his name on Spitting Image providing voices for multiple personalities including hers, he's since lent his talents in vocal impersonation to various films and TV shows, often without a credit.

"Bizarrely, recordings of Mrs Thatcher are quite difficult to clear for copyright reasons. It's hard to get clearance to use recordings of her speeches in parliament or even clips from the BBC, so more than once I've gone into a studio and done the voice for films and so on, because it's so much easier and



cheaper for them."

Far from making him an obvious choice for the role, however, his experience as an impressionist has been a source of scepticism for some, often hindering his ability to find 'serious' acting work.

"I don't think anybody wanted me to do this play. It was my friend Alistair McGowan who suggested to the writer that they get me in for a reading. Alistair and I have both suffered over the years because directors and casting people will say that they don't want an impressionist, they want an actor, whereas we share the opinion that the two things aren't mutually exclusive."

Then, of course, there's the fact that he's a man who'll be cross-dressing for the part, which might lead some to be concerned that his casting could undermine the more serious elements of the story. They needn't worry, however: there's a world of difference between Dead Sheep and shows like Margaret Thatcher: Queen Of Soho.

"To be honest, I don't really like the word 'drag'. I can see why journalists and reviewers have described it that way, but I think it's misleading. There's nothing wrong with drag, but what drag artists do is constantly remind you of the fact that they're a man dressed up as a woman. They'll usually be wearing an outrageous outfit and exaggerated make-up to draw attention to the artificial nature of what they're doing, whereas I simply regard the outfit as a costume like

any other. In fact, a lot of the people who came to see the show didn't even know it was a man doing it!"

From Handbagged to The Iron Lady, Dead Sheep is far from the first production on stage or screen to place Britain's first female and perhaps most divisive Prime Minister centre stage. Just what is it about Thatcher and her government that has captured the imaginations of so many writers?

"I think it's partly just the fact that it's now history, but of course, there are some great stories from that period, and she's a great character. I should add that the play is also very funny. My favourite scene is actually one where I don't even speak. Thatcher was known for not having a sense of humour, and there's a wonderful moment where someone tells her a joke, and all she does is stare at the man with incredulity. Every single night, that's what gets the biggest laugh from the audience."

Dead Sheep shows at Birmingham REP from 26 September until 3 October and at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, from 19 to 22 October.



Tom Hayes

HIV Campaigner
Editor of beyondpositive.org

Born: Birmingham

Star sign: Libra

Age: 30

"I used to sneak out of my bedroom window and get the bus into Birmingham. Route Two was my home!"

About Tom

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in a small village outside Redditch called Astwood Bank. It was a nice, quiet village which I love visiting now - but there wasn't much to do!

Single or attached?

Single.

What makes you happy?

I'm fairly easy to keep happy. As long as I'm feeding my gin, sushi and underwear addictions, I'm usually smiling. That said, they're not cheap!

What makes you sad?

Exercise. I mean, yeah, we all need to do it, but does it have to be so hard? Apart from that, it's seeing people worse off than me and feeling unable to do anything about it - the internet is awful for that sometimes.

What makes you angry?

Ignorance. There seems to be a lot of it about at the moment, be it aimed towards migrants, refugees, gay people, people living with HIV. Why can't we all just get along?

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

My fear of missing out. It's crippling sometimes. Maybe I'm just a people person...

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?

I was at the United Nations, handing out documents ahead of a talk I was giving. Hundreds of people in the room. Someone tweeted the big screen and said that they could all see my jockstrap above my trousers. Mortified.

Would you consider getting married?

I've been there, done that, got the divorce t-shirt. Single again now and in no rush to do it again. Not any time soon anyway.

Coming Out

When did you first know you were gay?

Probably around the age of 10 or 11. I knew I was different. I had no interest in playing 'kiss chase' with the girls, but I did prefer spending time with them over the boys - they just got me.

When did you come out?

I came out at 13. A somewhat angst-y teenager affair. I didn't think my parents would understand, so I stormed off, went for a walk late at night and ended up getting lost. I ended up calling my parents from a phonebox (how retro) to come find me and blurted it out. They weren't as surprised as I'd expected...

What was school like for you as a gay teenager?

Most people were cool with me being gay actually, which surprised 13-year-old me back in 1998. There were a couple of bullies who tried to make my life difficult, but after I beat one of them in a fight, they left me alone. That detention was totally worth it.

Who was the first person you told you were gay, and what was their reaction?

I think the first person I ever told was my friend Nicola. She pretended to be my girlfriend for the few months between me telling her and actually coming out. She was so cool with it.

What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their own sexuality?

Everyone comes to terms with

their own sexuality at their own pace. I came out at 13. I know friends who came out at 30 and some who still haven't. There's no rush, but when you're ready, make sure you have the support of your friends.

Have you ever had any experiences with the opposite sex?

I played 'pass the ice cube' at a party once. It involved kissing a girl. I wasn't won over.

Your Career

What do you do for a living?

I work in HIV and Sexual Health. I'm the editor of beyondpositive.org, a magazine for people living with HIV, and a Trustee of Saving Lives, a Birmingham-based HIV-testing charity.

How did you start working in the field?

I was diagnosed HIV positive in August 2011, and I took the opportunity to re-evaluate my life. I decided I wanted to do something that mattered and helped people.

What are you most proud of to date?

I think having started from nothing, an individual writing an anonymous blog, to now working at an international level - addressing people like the United Nations, European Parliament and the Houses of Parliament. It's taken blood, sweat and a lot of tears, but I proved it could be done.

What challenges do you face working in HIV?

My work is intrinsically linked to my personal life. That's how I started, and I draw on my past and my experiences all the time. Sometimes it can be hard to switch off, and I find myself doing work at all hours of the day and night when inspiration hits me.

What's been the biggest change in HIV recently?

Undetectability. If a person with HIV, like me, takes their treatment every day, it controls the virus to a point we call 'undetectable'. A huge study has recently shown us that undetectable people cannot pass on the virus at all. Unde-

tectable equals uninfected. It's huge.

What one thing can everyone do to help stop HIV?

Get tested. You can go to a clinic, or you can do it at home for free. Just do it. There's no such thing as a bad result. If it's negative, you can continue looking after yourself, and if it's positive, you can get the help and treatment you need. You can get a free home HIV testing kit from TakeATestUK.com using promo code CF0716.

Gay Scene

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay scene?

I've actually been on the scene since I was 14. I used to sneak out of my bedroom window and get the bus into Birmingham. Route Two was my home! Oh, and Angels between its many and various fires.

What's been your fondest memory of the scene?

I went out on New Year's Eve 2001 when I'd just turned 16, ended up in Route Two and pulled for the first time in a gay bar. Doing the walk of shame on New Year's Day with no public transport was less than ideal, though!

Who's your favourite cabaret act on the scene?

It's got to be La Voix. She's such a classy act, and her impersonations are dead on. She does a lot of work with community groups too, which always gets my vote.

Who's your favourite person on the scene?

That's such a hard one. Can I say the entire Eden Bar staff? They're all such lovely people.

What do you most enjoy about the gay scene?

The ability for us to be free, to be who we want and dress how we want. I went out the other day in a ridiculous semi-fetish outfit and no-one batted an eyelid. You could get away with that on Broad Street.

What have you noticed about



the way the scene has changed over the years?

I think the scene has definitely got quieter over the years, in part because most bars are now generally safe for LGBTQI people, and also due to the advent of hook-up apps. But at the same time, I think the venues' offer has got better to compete.

How would you change the gay scene?

I think Birmingham is really missing a dedicated cheesy pop bar. Non-stop pop and a music video wall. It's cliché, I know, but hey!

Time Out

Where do you like to go on a night out?

I usually start at one of the cocktail bars around Colmore Row and then, via somewhere to get food, invariably end up at Eden (or sometimes Boltz!)

What do you do to relax?

I love to cook. Cooking really re-

laxes me. A glass of wine in hand, stirring a risotto or something. That or stargazing. I love the night sky. That's my zen.

What do you enjoy on telly?

My TV watching is either mindless comedy (think Kimmy Schmidt) or documentaries. Something to make you think, and then something to take your mind off it.

What was the last album or track you bought?

Communion by Years And Years.

Which one website do you spend the most time on?

Twitter, I'm bloody addicted. @PositiveLad by the way.

Which type of holiday do you prefer?

I love cruises. People have a really outdated idea that they're for old people, but the ones I go on have surf simulators, sky diving, ice skating, rock climbing, scuba. They're a great way to experience different cities or countries whilst being spoilt rotten.

Quickfire

Who's your favourite actor?

Chris Pratt. Entirely for his acting ability. Entirely. Yes.

What's your favourite book?

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline.

Half empty or half full?

Keep pouring until it's full, then it doesn't matter.

What's your favourite food?

Sushi.

And how about your favourite drink?

Gin Martini.

Madonna or Lady Gaga?

Madonna, all the way.

If you could take a selfie with one person, alive or dead, who would it be?

Did I mention Chris Pratt?

Broken bones for Birmingham schoolboy after homophobic attack



A Birmingham schoolboy has suffered broken ribs and a fractured arm in a suspected homophobic attack.

Fifteen-year-old Jamie Watson was assaulted by three youths in the Ward End area of the city, reports the Birmingham Mail. The attack took place at around 3.30pm on 22 July.

Jamie, who has recently come out as bisexual, says that his attackers had previously made homophobic comments to him.

Speaking to the Birmingham Mail, the schoolboy said: "It was absolutely terrifying and I feared for my life. There were three of them in total and they all wore masks. It was a terrifying experience and I staggered home covered in blood."

Anyone who has any information connected to the assault is urged to call West Midlands Police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Coventry selected as 2017 LGBT History Festival Hub

The city of Coventry has been selected as a hub for next year's National Festival of LGBT History.

The festival, which returns for its third year in February, will be marking the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in England and Wales. As a result, the theme of the event will be 'Law, Citizenship and PSHE'.

The festival is organised by Schools OUT UK, an organisation that works hard to make LGBT people in all their diversity visible and safe in schools and education.

The Coventry hub of the festival takes place on Saturday 4 February. For more information, visit the LGBT History Month website.

New TV show in search for transgender contributors

TV production company RDF Television is looking for people to contribute to a new series.

The series will tell the story of a number of transgender individuals as they transition over a period of two to three years.

The 'sensitive and dignified' series will allow contributors to tell their stories in their own words.

RDF Television would like to speak to people who are in the early stages of transition, living in the UK and over the age of 16.

Anyone contacting RDF Television is not committing themselves to anything and all information will remain confidential.

If you're interested in taking part, contact Jess, Becky or Emily by emailing trans@rdftelevision.com, or by calling 020 7013 4180 or 07788 394 781.

Gay theatrical performance for Black History Month heading to Shrewsbury

A powerful solo performance drama is being staged at The Hive, Shrewsbury, on Friday 30 September at 8pm. FADoubleGOT is written and performed by Jamal Gerald. Inspired by a black gay experience, it's an autobiographical work which focuses on the ups and downs of pride and self-loathing.

The production is being staged by FRESH (Fairness, Respect, Equality Shropshire) to mark Black History Month. Support comes from Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival and LGBT Shrewsbury.

Through storytelling, spoken word and live art, Jamal explains how he learned to celebrate his individuality by embracing the

slurs that were thrown his way, and how he learned to wear labels without shame.

"Sometimes one word can bring back both good and bad memories," he says. "I believe that no one should feel pain over a word, like I have in the past. I'm going to show you how I took that pain and did something positive with it."

Tickets cost £7/£4 concs and can be purchased from The Hive on 01743 234970 or via www.hiveonline.org.uk

The show contains strong language and references to sex and drug use, and is suitable for audience members aged 16 and older.



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L Fest organisers seek event feedback



Organisers of L Fest, the UK's biggest and best lesbian festival, are asking for 2016's event attendees to provide them with feedback and award nominations

The feedback provided will be used by the L Fest team to help deliver a bigger and better festival than ever before. Meanwhile, the organisers are asking for award nominations to honour the musicians, comedians, workshop provider and everyone else involved in this year's hugely successful event. The awards will be announced at L Festive and the L Fest Awards, which are yet to be announced

Each person that provides feedback and award nominations will be entered into a prize draw for an L Fest 2017 ticket.

Visit lfest.co.uk for more information.

Birmingham LGBT announces LGBT adoption and fostering evening

Birmingham City Council and the charity Birmingham LGBT are this month hosting an informal information evening for any LGBT people who are thinking about adopting or fostering a child.

The evening will be attended by Claire Shepherd of Birmingham City Council's Adoption & Fostering Recruitment Team

Claire will present a talk about the adoption and fostering process and will also bust some myths about who's eligible to adopt.

There will also be an opportunity to hear about the experiences of local adopters and foster carers, to ask questions and have a chat with the experts.

The evening is for anyone interested in finding out more about adoption and fostering in greater Birmingham.



Many people think they aren't eligible to adopt. However, as long as they're 21 or over, a UK resident and have no criminal convictions, they have the potential to become an adoptive parent.

The event takes place at the Birmingham LGBT Centre on Wednesday 14 September, from 6.30pm.

Popular trans entertainer found dead in Derby public park

Popular trans entertainer Chelsea Attonley was found dead in a public park in Derby in the early hours of Friday 29 July.

Gay Star News reports that Attonley, who struggled with her gender identity and, at one point, wanted to switch back to her previous name of Matthew, was found in the city's Bass Recreation Ground

An ambulance was called to the park, where Attonley was initially reported to have been found unconscious, but emergency services later confirmed that she had died.

Chelsea was heavily involved with the trans community across the UK, hosting the stage of the UK's largest trans festival, Sparkle.



In the hours prior to her death, she'd been enjoying a night out with friends in Derby, celebrating her birthday at local gay venue The Crown Inn

Majority of sexual encounters unprotected, say 39% of gay men

According to a new survey by FS Magazine, 39% of gay men say the majority of the sex they have is unprotected.

The report questioned 1,500 gay and bisexual men about their sexual health and any concerns they might have

Stand-out statistics included the fact that 39% of gay men said they'd had unprotected sex the majority of the time in the past year. Twenty-five percent said they had unprotected sex some of the time, whilst 35% said they didn't have any unprotected sex (or hadn't had sex) in the last year.

The report also revealed that 50% of HIV-negative gay men are worried about becoming positive, whilst up to 51% of gay men believe that current HIV campaigns don't appeal to them, although 60% say they've seen one

Commenting on the findings, Matthew Hodson, CEO of GMFA, said "Condom use has slipped back a little since the early days of HIV, partly because HIV is no longer a death sentence, and partly because we're not seeing the same investment in sexual health that we saw a decade ago.

"With resources deployed to promote condoms and sexual health, encourage testing, challenge stigma, ensure that all gay men are well educated about HIV prevention and PrEP provided, we could end HIV within a generation."

Nick Hynan

Photography

Birmingham-based photographer

Nick Hynan has worked with the

LGBT community for many years

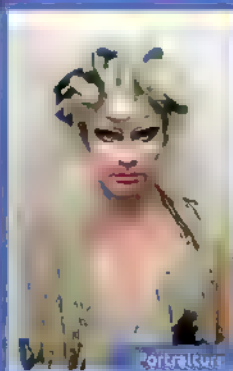
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and trans communities
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Trade every Monday*
from 12 noon until 6pm

Kwik Prick:

- Free and confidential
- Uses only a finger prick blood sample
- Result within minutes
- 99.7% accurate
- May detect HIV exposure from as little as 4 weeks ago

TRADE

Drop-in service every Monday*, 12 noon until 6pm.

Appointments can be made for other days

Location: Trade, 2nd Floor,

27 Bowling Green Street, Leicester, LE1 6AS

For more information call us on 0116 254 1747

or visit us at www.tradesexualhealth.com

*Kwik Prick is not available on Public Holidays

Trade Charity Number 106392

Birmingham LGBT Centre to open seven days a week

Birmingham LGBT Centre



Birmingham LGBT has announced that, from this month, some of its services will be accessible during extended weekday opening hours and at weekends.

The charity now provides specialist sexual health services specifically for the LGBT community. These are supported by Umbrella, Birmingham and Solihull's integrated sexual health service. The move to seven-day opening is to allow people to access sexual health services more conveniently. It will also open up the centre for other groups and activities for the LGBT community.

Matt Lopez, Sexual Health Services Manager at Birmingham LGBT, said: "It's really important to us that the LGBT community are able to access our services when it's most suitable for them, so from this month, access to our sexual health services will be available seven days a week, earlier in the

mornings, later in the evenings and at weekends too."

The new opening hours of Birmingham LGBT Centre, from Monday 5 September, are

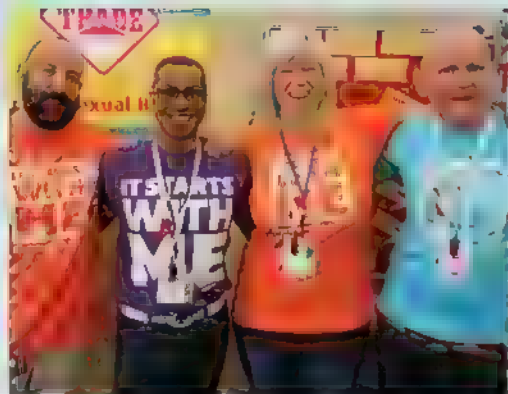
Monday 8am – 8pm
Tuesday 9am – 9pm
Wednesday 9am – 9pm
Thursday 9am – 9pm
Friday 8am – 8pm
Saturday 10am – 8pm
Sunday 10am – 8pm

Sexual health services on offer are:

- confidential and non-judgmental information and advice.
- free HIV rapid testing
- free STI testing kits
- free condoms, dams, gloves and lube
- walk-in LGBT people's sexual health clinic every Thursday
- Clinic Trans - Trans people's sexual health clinic every fourth Friday

For more information, contact the team on 0121 643 0821 or visit www.birminghamlgbt.org.uk.

Leicester gay and bi men sought for sexual health charity survey



Leicester sexual health charity Trade is on the lookout for gay and bisexual men to take part in a sexual health survey.

The aim of the study is to understand the sexual health of men who have sex with men (MSM). This will then inform the sexual health services offered by Trade Sexual Health.

The study is being conducted by Professor Rishi Jaspal, Chair in Psychology & Sexual Health, and Penkris Papaoukas, Research Assistant in Sexual Health, both from Leicester's

De Montfort University. They are working together with Sal Khaira and Makinder Chahal from Trade Sexual Health.

The study includes individuals of all ethnic backgrounds. The research will explore MSM's sexual identity and behaviour, sexual risk behaviour, perceived sexual risk, mental wellbeing, alcohol use and recreational drug use.

You can take part in the survey by visiting bit.ly/2bGig0V

Birmingham's Rainbow Voices LGBT choir seeking new members

Birmingham LGBT choir Rainbow Voices is hoping to attract new members to take part in its autumn season, which kicks off this month with a free two-hour workshop.

The workshop will be led by the choir's musical director, Emma Wilkinson-Cark. Participants will be taken through a typical choir warm-up, after which they'll learn a piece from Rainbow Voices' 2016/17 repertoire.

Anybody can join the choir. You don't need to be able to read music; just bring along yourself some water and maybe a couple of friends.

There's currently space in all sections of the choir, but particularly in the altos (lower female voice) and tenors (higher male voice). If you're not sure which part to sing, help will be at hand! The New Members' Workshop takes place at Trefoil House, Brownsea Drive, Blucher Street, Birmingham, on Saturday 10 September, from 10am till noon.

The choir's weekly rehearsals take place at Mac Birmingham every Tuesday night at 8pm starting on Tuesday 15 September. Visit rainbow-voices.org.uk to find out more.



THE VIRAL ROUND UP

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN LOOKING AT ONLINE...



We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

10 hot pictures of Team GB's Olympic Gold medalists **JACK LAUGHER & CHRIS MEARS**...

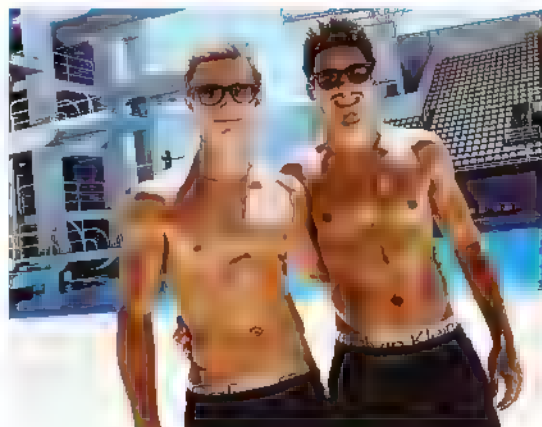


To celebrate their historic gold-medal win in the men's synchronised three-metres springboard final at the Rio Olympics, we've clawed together 10 hot pictures of Team GB's Jack Laughler and Chris Mears...

After all, it's not just Tom Daley who's rather pleasing on the eye when it comes to our record-breaking British Olympians

So sit back, relax and enjoy all things Jack and Chris by viewing them here:

bit.ly/2aYwnsy



What would it have been like for **GAY CAVEMEN** thousands of years ago?



Evidence suggests that homosexuality existed back in ancient times - but how was it dealt with?

In this hilarious video, a group of 'cavemen' and 'cavewomen' deal with the challenge of increasing the population, with the leader trying to make some telling changes to the group's

lifestyle

"When men are with men and women are with women - basically, when we do samesies," he informs them, "no people come out. So we can't do samesies for a while."

Watch it here: youtu.be/sgfQ9o2-9BM

Going to college or uni this year?

Stock up on condoms for Freshers

Get free condoms in Stoke-on-Trent
and Staffordshire with a C-Card

Find the Sexual Health team at your Freshers Fair



Sun and fun for annual **SHREWSBURY PINK PICNIC**

The annual Shrewsbury Pink Picnic returned to the town's Quarry Park last month.

Mother Nature was out to party too, with the sun beating down on the town's LGBT community for the duration of the afternoon get-together

The once-yearly picnic always proves a popular attraction, with many folks this year staying far longer than they'd anticipated they would

For more information about LGBT events in Shrewsbury, visit lgbtshrewsbury.co.uk.



NHS

MENS HEALTH

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Further information available

www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk

Free, private and confidential sexual health checks to gay & bisexual men, and men who have sex with men (MSM).



Celts Narborough Road Sauna Clinic:

Day: Tuesdays

Time: 3pm - 6pm

Place: 38 Narborough Road, Leicester LE3 0BO

City Celts Sauna Clinic:

Day: Wednesdays

Time: 3pm - 6pm

Place: 61 New Bond Street, Leicester, LE1 4RO



Day: Thursdays

Time: 3pm - 6pm

Place: 61 Bedford Street, Leicester, LE1 3UR

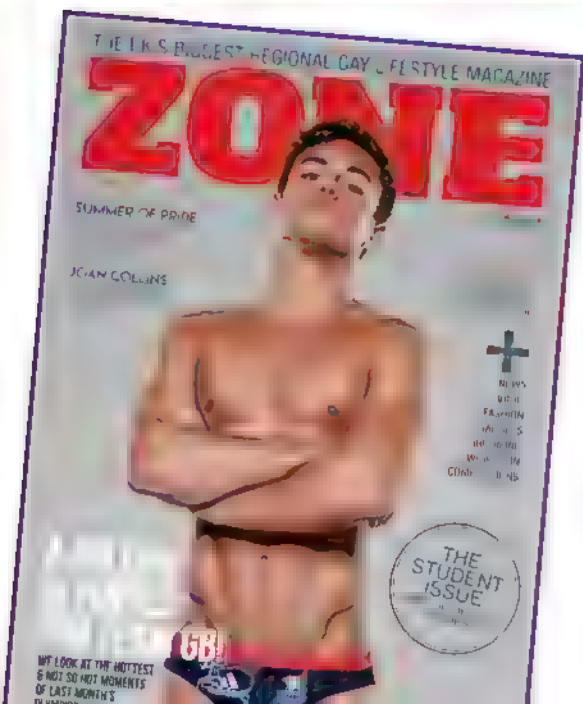


You can also check out Trade Sexual Health

www.tradesexualhealth.com

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Subscription Hotline
on 01743 281714**

**Simply pay the postage and packing cost
of £2 per issue by debit or credit card!**

Rain doesn't stop play at **WARWICKSHIRE PRIDE**

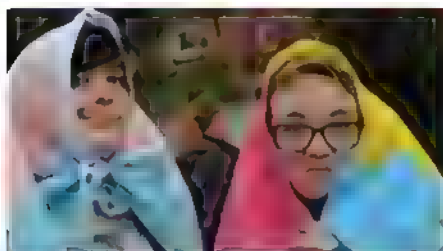
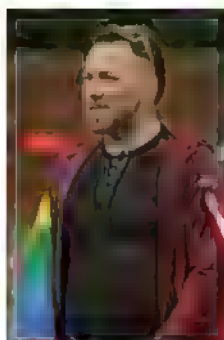
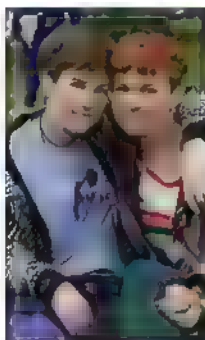
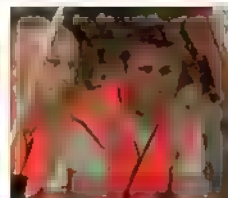
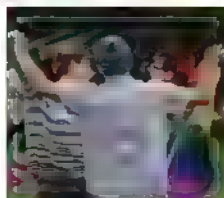
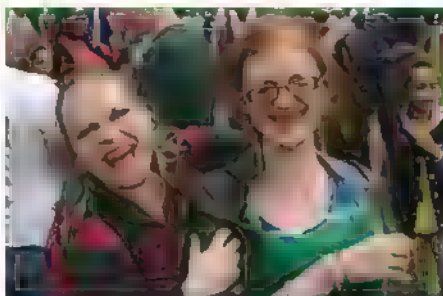
Despite not being blessed with the best weather throughout the day, last month's Warwickshire Pride was a resounding success.

Hosted in the beautiful setting of the Pump Room Gardens in Leamington Spa, the event saw a number of acts take to the stage, including The Voice stars Vangelis Polydorou and Jordan Gray.

There was also plenty for the LGBT community to see and do, with family-friendly activities, information stalls and more...

We're looking forward to next year's event already - let's just hope the sun comes out to play a bit more in 2017!

Photos by Kerry Goodman and Samathy Barratt for Gay Pride Pics.



SATURDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER

VICTORIA PARK



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PRIDE

2016

ANGIE BROWN | LISA LASHES | KELLY WILDE
KY KELLY | FANNY BURNS | VANGELIS | ROBBIE LEWIS
SIMON BAKER | ROB LAMBETH | LEA MARTIN | MISS MARTY
NICKI FRENCH | NIKK MAGER | THE VISION | BENJAMINBNG | GEORGIA ROBSON

- AREAS INCLUDE -

MAIN STAGE | DANCE TENT | MARKET STALLS | FOOD & DRINK

PLUS CITY CENTRE PARADE FROM 12PM AT THE CURVE

Birmingham's **PINK PICNIC** returns for late-summer fun

Sunday 11 September

**King's Heath Park,
Birmingham**

blgbt.org

With the nights drawing in and Halloween, Bonfire Night and Christmas suddenly seeming disconcertingly close, Birmingham LGBT's Pink Picnic on Sunday 11 September (starting at 1pm) is the perfect way to say a fun-filled farewell to the summer.

Back by popular demand for 2016, the annual event provides participants with an opportunity to relax and have fun in King's Heath Park. The picnic (you bring your own, by the way) offers a great chance to catch up with old friends, meet new people, get some fresh air and generally relax in green and leafy surroundings.

The event is free to attend and open to people of all ages - so round up your friends and family and join in

And if you'd like to combine enjoying a delicious picnic with doing something a little more active, you're in luck - the afternoon also features plenty of games and activities to enjoy, courtesy of Birmingham LGBT's popular fitness programme, Activate.



PINK PICNIC

EVERYONE WELCOME

at Kings Heath Park,

Birmingham ~~021 643 7101~~ (814710)

(next to the vicarage road car park on the playing field)

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hello@blgbt.org • 0121 643 0821

Sunday 11 September
1pm - 5pm

Birmingham
LGBT

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THE FRESHERS' WEEK

*Midlands Zone's
handy 15-step
guide to an
enjoyable
Freshers' Week
- and beyond...*

The new university term is pretty much upon us, so the thought of Freshers' Week - known for its wild parties and sexual experimentation - will undoubtedly be causing the new intake of students a few anxious moments.

Well, fear not, because we've put together a comprehensive survival guide to get you through your first few weeks. Just try not to get too drunk during Freshers' Week, or you might not be in the best state for when you actually start uni!

1 Settling in

During your first week at university, it's going to be a mad rush. Get there early and give yourself a chance to settle in to your new accommodation.

2 Meeting new people

If you're staying in halls, why not leave your door open and play some music. This will make you more inviting to other people, and it's a great way to make new friends. Think of all those new Twitter followers you'll be getting!

3 Parties and events

Everyone loves being sociable so go to as many events as

possible - whether it's a party down the hall or something connected to your course. Better still, why not throw a party yourself? You never know who you'll meet!

4 Schedule your time

Most universities publish Freshers' Week schedules on their websites. If you find out what's happening in advance, it'll give you a heads-up about partying the night away!

5 LGBT societies

Why not pop along and introduce yourself at your university's LGBT society? They're a great resource. Why not see if they have a Twitter account you could follow to keep up with the latest happenings?

6 Go out and party!

Freshers' Week has a serious party reputation, so go out and enjoy yourself with some new friends. You may come back with even more new friends, and university won't seem so daunting then! Just remember to get your Instagram game face on - you might not remember the night before!



SURVIVAL GUIDE...

7 Budget your money

Going to university may be the first time you've left home. Budgeting your money is very important - you'll have food to think about, and eating out gets expensive. Whilst going out seems like the best idea most of the time, you'll eventually start eating into money you need for other things. Unless, of course, your parents can bail you out!

8 Get the essentials

If you've got roommates, club together with them on essentials to line your cupboards. That way, if you do run out of money, at least you'll have the basics there to sustain yourself.

9 Grab an NUS card

You've probably already got your NUS Card, which entitles you to student discounts at a variety of retailers. If you haven't, what're you waiting for? It's cheap and will pay for itself in a very short space of time.

10 Utilise offers at bars

Use local discounts to save cash. Most bars, clubs and shops will be trying to get into that student loan of yours. They'll have vouchers for entry deals and drinks, so grab lots of them - the promo staff need to get rid of them. Many bars and clubs have special offers if you

like and share their posts on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

11 Head down the SU

Your Student Union is a central hub and is there to provide you with essential services. It goes without saying that some are better than others and have a better range of facilities.

12 Remember: SAFE SEX

Sex is deemed to be a big part of uni life. Without sounding like your mother, stay safe by always using protection. Free condoms will be available from your Student Union, and most gay venues give away free condoms and lube too.

13 Have friends over

Staying in during Freshers Week? You're joking, right? It's actually a great idea. It can be a good way to bond with your house/flatmates in a different setting. Invite your mates over for pizza, a few DVDs or anything that gets you involved and gets the banter flowing.

14 Freshers fairs

Most universities will have a Freshers/Activities fair - great for FREE STUFF. Companies might be on-site with free samples, special offers and discount vouchers. Societies will be in evidence too. Usually these fairs are a chance to check out all the societies on offer at your uni.

15 The morning after

The morning after the night before is never easy - especially when there's a 9am lecture to get to. Wash an aspirin and a glass of juice to boost energy levels and you're good to go. Better still, drinking a pint of water before you go to bed will help prevent dehydration as you sleep (or pass out, more likely).



A muscular man with dark hair and a light beard is shown from the waist up, wearing Jockey Sport boxer shorts with a black and white chevron pattern. He is holding a thick black battle rope with both hands, one near his waist and the other near his shoulder. The background is a bright, slightly blurred outdoor setting.

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BIRMINGHAM LGBT welcome new students to the city...



With the new term at universities across the region about to begin, Midlands charity Birmingham LGBT is welcoming new and returning students to the city. Here, its Wellbeing Events Coordinator, Adam Carver, explains exactly how you can benefit from Birmingham LGBT.

Adam, over to you...

Birmingham LGBT is a registered charity based in the city centre that delivers services to LGBT people across Birmingham.

Our vision is a vibrant and diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans community in Birmingham, one in which individuals can realise their full potential and have equal access to everything the city has to offer.

Welcome (or welcome back) to Birmingham! Firstly, let's begin with big congratulations to all the new students joining us for 2016 - you've made it here, which means you've worked really hard to get where you are. Now that's out of the way, the real fun begins (but don't worry, there's still plenty of hard work ahead of you - you're not off the hook yet by any stretch of the imagination).

Moving to university is a time of massive change, there's a whole raft of new freedoms, opportunities and experiences coming your way (and a whole load of cooking and cleaning up for yourself). Take all the opportunities that come to you but remember to look after yourself - it's not always going to be easy, and that's okay (it's sort of the point).

For many people, university is a time to discover things - about the world, about other people and about themselves. It's a chance to meet people from different backgrounds, with different experiences and different perspectives.

You're going to meet people you don't get along with or who don't get on with you, but

you're also going to meet people with whom you make lifelong connections.

For me, university was a chance to start over, to introduce myself to people how I wanted to be known, without the baggage of who I was (or who people thought I was). Because of this, I didn't have to come out, I just was out, and it was an enormous relief to make new relationships with people without the feeling that I was keeping something from them.

Many of you will already be out (either publicly or to yourselves), but there will be some who are still questioning or are yet to come out. Wherever you are in your personal life is fine - you shouldn't feel pressured to do anything you don't want to do.

The whole 'coming out' scenario can be tough and at times seem fairly terrifying - so remember that there's support out there for you. Your university will have student-support services or a student LGBT society - but if that all seems too close for comfort, you can always get in touch with Birmingham LGBT and access our one-on-one support and advice services.

Over the course of your studies it's likely that you'll experience all sorts of relationships, so if you ever need confidential advice, sexual health testing, or just need to stock up on condoms, dental dams and lube, pay us a visit or head to our website and we can post you self-sampling kits and/or condoms for free.

Remember that whilst you've probably spent ages deciding what to study, you've also de-

cided to study here in Birmingham, so make the most of the unique opportunities available in your city - it's a truly bustling place ready for you to explore!

Birmingham's Gay Village is a hot-spot for nightlife. There's something there to cater for every taste, so when you fancy breaking out from the students' union, head down to Hurst Street.

If you're looking for something a little more relaxed, the city has a thriving queer arts scene (including our own SHOUT Festival of Queer Arts and Culture, happening this November), and we run a year-round programme of free events, classes, workshops, training and fitness activities.

You can keep up to date with everything that's happening at Birmingham LGBT via the What's Happening section of our website, twitter (@BirminghamLGBT) or facebook (facebook.com/birminghamlgbt).

You're probably going to hear a lot of people say that your time at university is going to fly by. It definitely will, but there will be other times when it feels like it's endless. Embrace all of it, enjoy the ride and learn from everything - test yourself, try something new, and if you need support, advice or are just looking to meet some new people, pay us a visit.

Best of luck, and we look forward to meeting you soon.



SCENE STYLE

This season's hottest fashion, to make sure you look great on a night out...

**LEFT Andrew Christian Palm Tank**

This sexy Palm Tank is flattering and fun. In sleek black with a contrast bright palm print mesh, each tank is bound to highlight all of your best features. In a classic scoop neck cut, each piece comes with contrast trim in a soft stretch fabric.

£29.99

andrewchristian.com

TOP RIGHT River Island White Palm Tree Vest

Keep the summer vibe going with this cotton palm tree print vest. It's got a nice, relaxed fit with round neck. Pair it with a pair of skinny jeans and you're good to go!

£25.00

riverisland.com

BOTTOM LEFT Topman B&W Atomic Wash Tee

Go monochrome with this black and white atomic wash t-shirt - paired with a pair of black jeans, you'll have a stylish look for a night on the town.

£15.00

topman.com

BOTTOM RIGHT Nasty Pig Hustle Mesh and Rubber Jersey

Football meets fetish in a completely elevated way. This exceptional style is made of custom athletic mesh and perforated Nasty Pig rubber.

£19.99

clonezone.co.uk



1st LEFT Red, Blue and White Panelled Long Sleeve Tee

Stand out from the crowd with this red, white and blue long-sleeve t-shirt, featuring a cut and sew paneled design.

£15.00

topman.com



2nd LEFT Green Faux Fur Collar Aviator Jacket

Get ready for those cold autumn nights with this green aviator jacket featuring a faux fur collar.

£75.00

riverisland.com



3rd LEFT Blue Denim Double Pocket Western Shirt

Pair this smart denim shirt with navy chinos and trainers to get that smart-but-casual look.

£24.99

newlook.com



4th LEFT Light Wash Blue Ripped Skinny Jeans

These must-have jeans are mid-rise with skinny hips and skinny tapered legs. They're made from a stretch fabric and come in a light blue wash.

£40.00

topman.com



TOP RIGHT Orange Checked Shirt

This orange and black long-sleeve checked shirt will look great with a pair of black skinny jeans.

£25.00

riverisland.com

BOTTOM RIGHT Rust Double Pocket Harrington Jacket

Add a smart finishing touch to your outfit with this rust-coloured Harrington.

£29.99

newlook.com



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TOP TECH

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01 LucidSound LS30

The LS30 is an elegant and functional wireless gaming headset that provides simple, intuitive controls to adjust the most commonly used features, including game volume, game mute, chat volume and mic mute. It's the perfect headset for the person that's mad about online gaming!

£130.00
game.co.uk

02 All-new Amazon Kindle

Perfect for the bookworm, the all-new Amazon Kindle is thinner and lighter than its predecessor. It features a touchscreen display that reads like paper. You'll also be safe in the knowledge that the battery will last you for weeks, not hours - leaving you to escape into another world through literature.

From £59.99
amazon.co.uk

03 Elgato Avera Bulb

Transform your home with beautiful dynamic light moods and control the ambience from your phone, iPad or Apple Watch. You can turn any luminaire into the perfect mood lamp with the Avera Bulb. Connect more than one Avera to coordinate lighting throughout your room.

£26.99
amazon.co.uk

04 Samsung Galaxy Note 7

The latest flagship smartphone to hit the market is the fantastic Galaxy Note 7. Featuring an impressive 5.7" Quad HD display, a 12MP DualPixel camera and an iris scanner, there's not much this Android smartphone can't do! If you're in the market for a new phone, this is worth checking out.

From Free
carphonewarehouse.com

05 LG PH150G Projector

If you're looking to upgrade your home entertainment setup, then you might want to consider this little beast of a projector. Small and portable, with a 2.5-hour battery, this functional device will beam a bright and clear picture onto your wall - up to 100 inches.

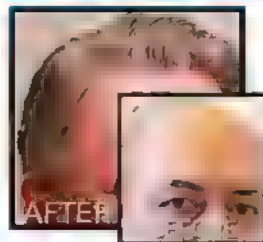
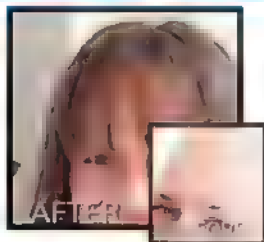
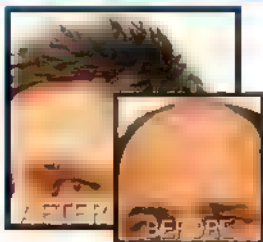
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01 Panasonic EH-HS95 Nanoë Hair Straightener

The revolutionary EH-HS95 hair straighteners by Panasonic use nanoë particles generated from air holes at the tip of their ceramic-coated iron plates to ensure glossy straight hair.

£199.99
boots.com

02 BaByliss for Men Super Crew Cut

This device is a revolution in home haircutting. The Super Crew Cut has an enhanced lithium ion power system for advanced cutting performance, and precision-engineered steel blades with a unique super-sharp cutting angle for smooth, effortless cutting.

From £89.99
amazon.co.uk

03 Panasonic ES-LV95 5 Blade Shaver

The Panasonic ES-LV95 5 blade shaver will revolutionise your morning routine with its impressive technology and innovative features and functions.

£329.99
boots.com

04 Wahl Lithium Blitz Beard Trimmer

The Wahl Blitz 3in1 Beard Trimmer with Lithium 2.0 technology is ideal for grooming beards or maintaining short or longer stubble.

£89.99
boots.com

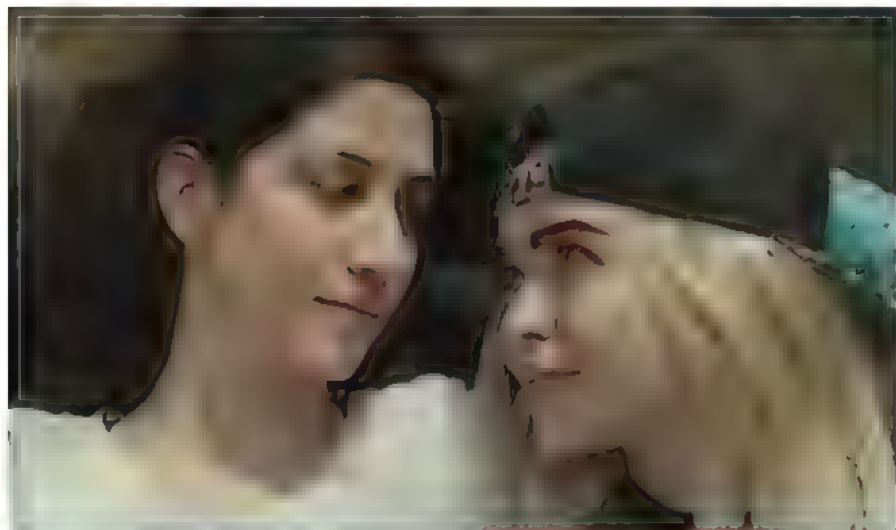
05 Oral-B GENIUS 9000 Black Electric Toothbrush

Oral-B GENIUS electric toothbrush is the world's first brush with Position Detection technology - which means it sees where you've brushed to guide you as it cleans.

£140.00
amazon.co.uk

That's Entertainment!

This month's hot DVD, music and book releases...



DVD BLUSH

Like all teenagers her age, Barash wants to hang out with her friends, drink alcohol, score some drugs and generally have a good time. She doesn't want to worry about her unraveling home life, with her parents' never-ending arguments and a sister who's gone AWOL from the army again. Barash just wants to have some fun. When new girl Dana arrives at school, brimming with a cocky demeanour and oh-so-cool attitude, Barash can't help falling in love for the first time. Presenting a lesbian coming-of-age story from a fresh perspective, *Blush* is essential viewing



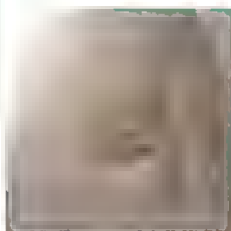
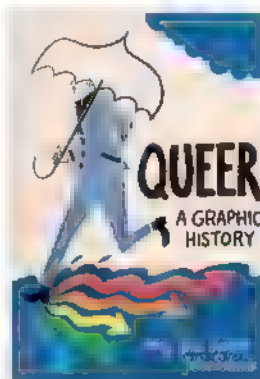
DVD LIEBMANN

Attempting to leave the ghosts of the past behind him, Antek Liebmann travels to northern France. But the past is never easy to leave behind, and soon the nightmares begin to catch up with him. A chance encounter with a handsome local guy offers him the opportunity to finally banish the darkness once and for all - but first Antek has to let him in.

BOOK QUEER by Meg-John Barker & Julia Scheele

...A Graphic History

Activist-academic Meg-John Barker and cartoonist Julia Scheele illuminate the histories of queer thought and LGBTQ-plus action in this groundbreaking non-fiction graphic novel. From identity politics and gender roles to privilege and exclusion, *Queer* explores how we came to view sex, gender and sexuality in the ways that we do; how these ideas get tangled up with our culture and our understanding of biology, psychology and sexology; and how these views have been disputed and challenged. Along the way the authors look at key landmarks which shift our perspective of what's 'normal' - Alfred Kinsey's view of sexuality as a spectrum, Judith Butler's view of gendered behaviour as a performance, the play *Wicked*, or moments in *Casino Royale* when we're invited to view James Bond with the kind of desiring gaze usually directed at female bodies in mainstream media. Presented in a brilliantly engaging and witty style, this is a unique portrait of the universe of queer thinking.



MUSIC GLORY by Britney Spears

Multi-platinum, Grammy Award-winning pop icon Britney Spears is one of the most successful and celebrated entertainers in pop history, with nearly 100 million records sold worldwide. And now she's back with her ninth studio album, featuring the single, *Make Me*

SPUNK LUBE

spunklube.com

CORO YOUNGLOVE & JAY DAVIS
AT GUYBONE.COM

SPUNK



THE LUBE EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT!



COFFE AND TAYLOR BY ARRANGEMENT WITH JONATHAN SHALIT DBE FOR COLE KITCHEN AND
KEIL O'BRIEN ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT

A BRAND NEW SHOW FOR 2016

JOAN

Collins

UNSCRIPTED

26TH SEPT
BIRMINGHAM,
TOWN HALL

FOR TICKETS VISIT OR CALL:
SEETICKETS.COM
TICKETMASTER.CO.UK
0844 844 0444

THE 11TH
SHROPSHIRE
RAINBOW
FILM FESTIVAL

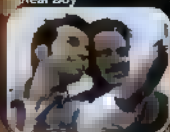
Spring Out
OMH
14 - 16 OCTOBER 2016



Blackbird



Real Boy



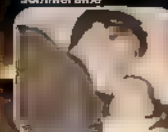
Aligarh



Women Like Us



Summertime



Wherever You Are



Women Like That



Desert Hearts



Gerontophilia

Friday 14th October

7.30PM



8.00PM

BLACKBIRD 2014 (USA)

Saturday 15th October

1.30PM

WOMEN LIKE US 1989 (UK)
WOMEN LIKE THAT 1991 (UK)
DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR

4.30PM

REAL BOY 2016 (USA)
Q & A WITH JOE STEVENS

8.00PM

SUMMERTIME 2016
(FRANCE/BELGIUM) - SUBTITLES

Sunday 16th October

1.30PM

DESERT HEARTS 1985 (USA)

3.30PM

ALIGARH (INDIA) 2015 - SUBTITLES

4.00PM

WHEREVER YOU ARE
SHORT, FILMED IN SHREWSBURY
WITH DIRECTORS: GABRIEL & JOAN 2016
Tickets via Eventbrite

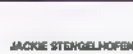
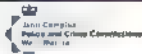
6.30PM

GERONTOPHILIA 2013 (CANADA)

www.rainbowfilmfestival.org.uk

UK Shorts Saturday 15th, 10.15am (at OMH) / International Shorts Sunday 16th, 11am (at The Hive)

Two separate programmes, back by popular demand, with the opportunity to meet some of the film directors,
and make awards for the best in each programme Shorts - Tickets -£5/£4 via Eventbrite



hotlist

THIS MONTH'S HOT EVENTS & THINGS TO SEE AND DO

1

LEICESTER PRIDE

Victoria Park, Leicester,
Sat 3 September

Leicester Pride returns with a bang and is going to be the biggest and best yet, according to organisers.

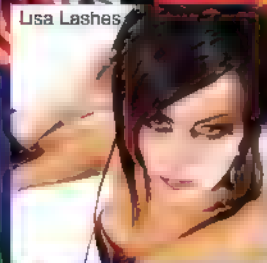
As usual, the whole thing kicks off with a huge parade snaking its way through the city streets to Victoria Park, where the festivities really begin.

With a main stage, dance arena and more community stalls than you can shake a stick at, the festival promises to be one hell of a great day out!

Top international DJ Lisa Lashes returns once again, whilst headlining the main stage for 2016 is The Voice's Vangelis, Angie Brown, and Pride festival favourite Kelly Wilde. We can't wait!



Lisa Lashes



Vangelis

2

SUE PERKINS

Birmingham Hippodrome,
until Sat 3
September

We're promised that Sue Perkins' Hippodrome show is not only 'packed full of sparkling wit and great stories' but also includes 'a user's guide to Mary Berry and the very best bits from Sue's hilarious best-selling memoir, Spectacles'. Sue is best known for being one half of double act Mel and Sue. In 2008, she won BBC TV show Maestro, a victory that led to her picking up the baton and conducting at the Last Night Of The Proms. She's also collaborated with food critic Giles Coren on the Supersizers series, created the acclaimed travel documentary The Mekong River With Sue Perkins and been a regular contributor on series including Have I Got News For You, Just A Minute, QI and The News Quiz. Oh, and apparently she does some cake show on BBC1



3

JOAN COLLINS

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
Tues 13 September; Town Hall,
Birmingham, Mon 26 September

Global superstar Joan Collins is visiting the Midlands this month as part of a tour of her brand new one-woman show, *Unscripted*

Joan's been a star for more years than she probably cares to remember. Her successful international career in both film and television reached its peak in the 1980s when she starred as Alexis Carrington in the hit US TV series *Dynasty*

"I so enjoyed my 10 years performing my previous one-woman show all over the world that I'm delighted to be doing an entirely new show," says Joan. "Each performance will be different, so if you liked me in Salford, come see me in Shrewsbury and Birmingham and if you don't, then stay at home and watch *Come*."



4

SISTER ACT

New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham,
Mon 12 - Sat 17
September

Alexandra Burke stars in this hit show, which is based on the Whoopi Goldberg film of the same name and directed by Craig Revel Horwood. Packed to the rafters with songs inspired by Motown, funk, soul and disco, *Sister Act* tells the story of disco diva Deloris Van Cartier. After witnessing a murder, Deloris is put in protective custody by the police, in the one place they feel confident she won't be found - a convent, and disguised as a nun.



5 RUSSELL HOWARD

Nottingham
Playhouses,
Mon 19 September

According to his mother, Russell Howard reveals the comic style calls to mind a child telling people about his day at the zoo. As far as it goes, his assessment is a pretty accurate one. The Bristol-born comedian is best known for the BBC Three TV series *Russell Howard's Good News*, which in 2013 was voted the channel's most popular ever programme. He's visiting Nottingham this month as part of a *Work in Progress* tour.



6

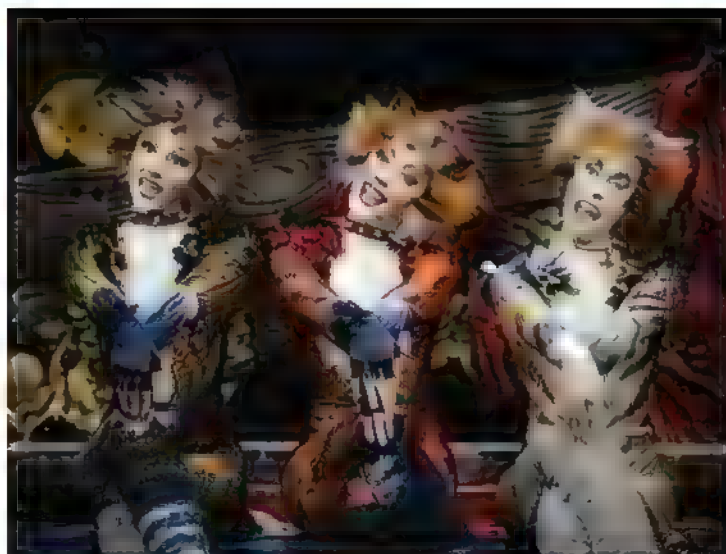
FOOTLOOSE

Curve, Leicester, Mon 29 August - Fri 2 September

Kick off your Sunday shoes and cut loose as this explosive rock'n'roll musical bursts onto the Curve's stage - remastered and sure to get your toes tapping.

Based on the 1980s hit film of the same name, this musical version of Footloose stars Gareth Gates and Lee Brennan as Willard and Maureen Nolan as Vi Moore.

Expect plenty of cutting-edge choreography to accompany a soundtrack bursting with classic hits, including Holding Out For A Hero, Almost Paradise. Let's Hear It For The Boy and the unforgettable title track itself



7 CATS

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 5 - Sat 10 September

A spectacular and captivating adaptation of TS Eliot's Old Possum's Book Of Practical Cats, this Andrew Lloyd Webber production has been performed in over 300 cities in more than 20 coun-

tries around the world. It's also widely considered to be the show that redefined the modern musical. In so doing, it paved the way for a seemingly relentless stream of blockbuster hits, giving starring roles to Elaine Page, Sarah Brightman and Brian Blessed in the process. All in all, then, one helluva theatrical experience.

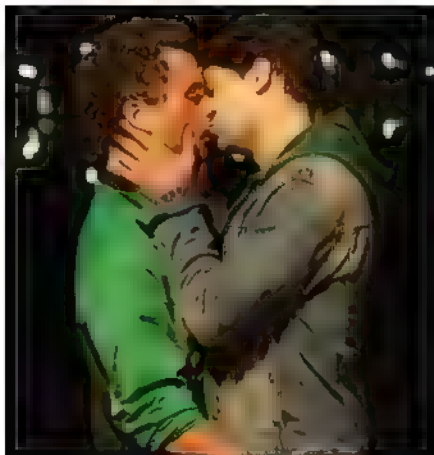
8

THEO & HUGO

Released Fri 9 September

Starring Geoffrey Couet, Francois Nambot. Directed by Olivier Ducastel, Jacques Martineau. (France)

Théo and Hugo encounter each other one night in a Paris sex club. Wanting to know more about one another, they leave the club and drift down the deserted streets of the sleeping city. Suddenly, reality bites and they realise there are choices that need to be made. Will their trust be rewarded, they wonder. And what are their expectations anyway?



AFFECTION

Stan's Café, Birmingham, Fri 30 September - Sat 1 October

This play is particularly relevant in light of the recent controversy surrounding PrEP and the NHS.

Homophobia in the national press has recently hit the headlines as hard as it did back in the 1980s. This production seeks to tackle the issues head-on via a series of naturalistic scenes depicting characters negoti-

ating their lives, jobs and relationships with friends and lovers.

The scenes, which are woven together using movement and film, see the LGBT cast exploring themes of stigma, shame, triumph, community and hope.

The production follows extensive work with leading organisation Positive East to create a true picture of what it means to live with HIV.

WIN! A PUMP! Spring Break Jockstrap!



Playfully erotic and erotically stimulating, this Blue Steel Jock is the perfect late night staple that oozes a sporty sex appeal that will have your partner craving more.

The royal navy cup and support strings contrast against its bold PUMP! waistband giving it a new-age style and flair. Sexy and fun, it'll be hard to keep this bad boy from coming out to play. In collaboration with PUMP! Underwear, we've got a pair to give away to one lucky Midlands Zone reader! Enter at midlandszone.co.uk!

To enter this competition simply visit midlandszone.co.uk before Friday 30 September!

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

READ MIDLANDS ZONE ON THE GO!

@ WWW.MIDLANDSZONE.CO.UK

OUT

SEPTEMBER 2016

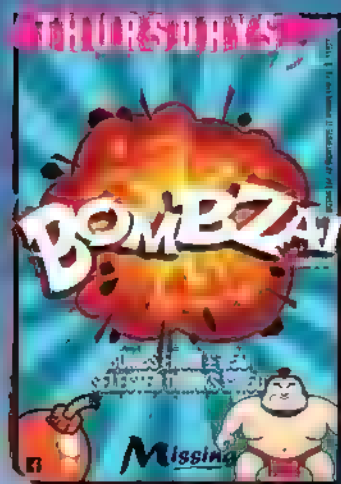
NAOMI SMALLS

RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE STAR
AT BIRMINGHAM GAY CLUB

POPE JOHN'S TRIPLE TREAT

REGGIE & BOLLEA

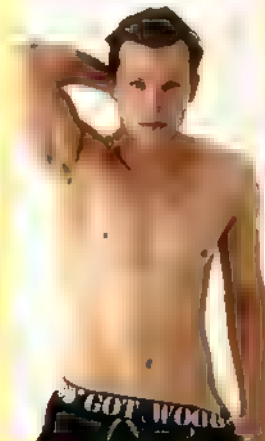
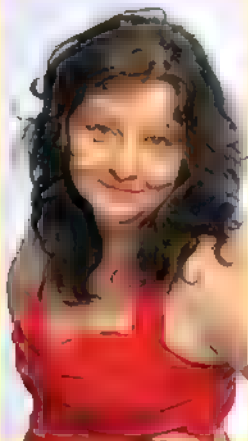
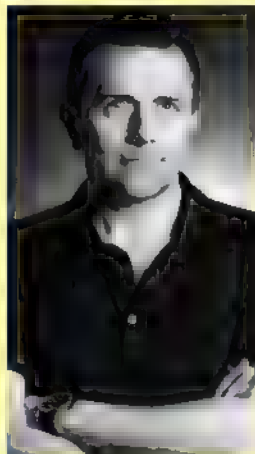
XXX THE BACH



FRIDAYS

WEEKLY AT
Missing

Monthly **COMEDY TRIPLE TREAT** fun-fest debuts at Birmingham's award-winning Eden Bar



Popular Birmingham gay venue **Eden Bar** is set to play host to a monthly night of comedy.

The new event, named **Comedy Triple Treat**, is hosted by cabaret star **Brenda LaBeau** and will feature three comedians per show.

September's debut offering takes place on Thursday the 8th and sees **Craig Deeley**, **Maureen Younger** and **Aaron Twichen** take to the stage.

So if you're in the market for an evening of mirth and merriment, this is your best bet!

EDEN - BIRMINGHAM

Get set for the Nightingale's **NAOMI SMALLS** party!



If you're a fan of hit US TV show **RuPaul's Drag Race**, you'd best head down to Birmingham's **Nightingale Club** on **Saturday 10 September**.

Carrying on with its successful run of **Drag Race** acts, the venue hosts the debut Birmingham performance of Season Eight star **Naomi Smalls**!

The **RuPaul** queens always go down a treat, so make sure you don't miss out!

THE NIGHTINGALE - BIRMINGHAM

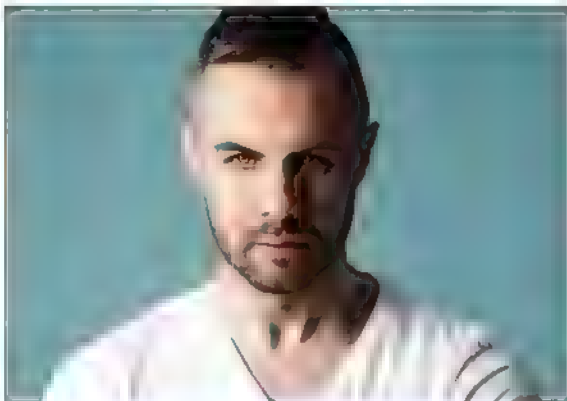
Brum men-only night **XXL** now featuring DJ Paul Morrell!

Men-only club night XXL returns to Birmingham this month - and it promises to be as good as ever!

Taking place on the third Friday of every month (16 September), the London club night's Midlands event features new

resident DJ **Paul Morrell** playing the biggest hits and remixes to get the dancefloor packed. Oh, and if you fancy making your night out that little bit hotter, don't forget there's a dark room upstairs!

THE CORE - BIRMINGHAM



X Factor stars **REGGIE & BOLLIE** set to celebrate Wolves venue's birthday

Bosses at Wolverhampton's **Gorgeous bar & club** have announced that **X Factor** stars **Reggie & Bollie** will visit the venue at the beginning of next month. The talent-show finalists' live PA at the club takes place on **Saturday 1 October**.

Entry is only **£1** before midnight, with drinks **£1** until midnight. With the nights drawing in, we reckon the boys and girls at **Gorgeous** have got it covered and will throw an epic night of music and partying!

GORGEOUS - WOLVERHAMPTON



September

MONDAY

5 12 19 26

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

MINISTRY OF POUND with DJ Mike Emery from 9pm. Selected drinks £1. Open until 2am.
MISSING BAR

BINGO - Bingo with Queeny
THE VILLAGE INN

SUGAR RUSH £2 entry
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

MONDAY MADNESS

BAR JESTER

DISCO - 7pm-midnight
1st & 3rd M
NEW FORESTERS

DISCO

DISCO

WEST MIDLANDS

FABULOUS Featuring resident DJ Col. playing the best in chart hits.

camp tunes and more. Live cabaret every 1st Monday of the month. **Mon 5 September** - the return of fantastic cabaret from the one and only award-winning Drag With No Name! Free admission before midnight and just £3 after 6:21, **SHREWSBURY**

THE MONDAY CLUB - 9pm-5am - Student night. Everything is £2 (Shots £1) with DJ Lee Edward. **GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON**

CHILL NIGHT with
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

GET THE PARTY STARTED Fri
With DJ. Foxy. **EDEN**

GOSS R. STOKES ON TRENT

STUDENT NIGHT

all drinks 1.00-2.00
PINK, STOKES ON TRENT

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 - 10pm-2am

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

DISCO 7pm-midnight
NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

September

TUESDAY

6 13 20 27

BIRMINGHAM

90'S NIGHT - Every Tuesday night 10.30pm-3am.
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

SCREAM STAR SUPERSTAR - With your host karaoke temptress Gavina. Party starts at 9pm till late
MISSING BAR

OPEN YOUR SNATCH - Songs, Games & Prizes with Miss Penny
THE VILLAGE INN



TUNE UP TUESDAY

BAR JESTER

WEST MIDLANDS

DISCO - 7pm-midnight

September

1 8 15 22 29

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

CHARLIE HIDES Thurs 29 September - The man of many characters returns to Eden Bar!
EDEN

COMEDY TRIPLE TREAT - Thurs 30 September - Live comedy with Craig Deeley, Maureen Younger and Aaron Twichen
EDEN

CULT - Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

LA VOIX - Thurs 1 & 15 September - Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist live on stage at Eden!
EDEN

I <3 THE 90'S - From 8pm with DJ Dan. Doors open from 2pm.
DAN

BRENDA LADEAU - Thurs 22 September - So popular last month she's back at Eden Bar!
EDEN

POUNDED - £5 entry. Drinks from a £1. DJ Corey playing chart and dance on whilst Miss Marty and DJ Craig with all the pop and cheese

THE LION BAR & CLUB, WALSHALL

CAMP QUIZ - With free buffet. Quiz starts 8.30pm
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

DIVERSITY

VELVET, WORCESTER

FLANNY

BREWERY TAP, WORCESTER

BRYE'S PARTY ROOM

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

TWISTED TUESDAYS - Hosted by DJ. Corey. **RAINBOWS, COVENTRY**

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 - Open from 2pm till

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

CHILL OUT NIGHT - 10pm-12am
NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

DISCO - 7pm-midnight
Nintendo Wii from 8pm
DOVER CASTLE, LEICESTER

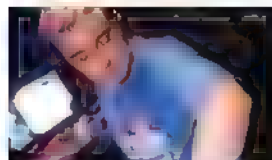
September

7 14 21 28

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

2 GOOD 2 MISS - Drinks from just £2 with DJ Mike Emery. **MISSING BAR**



KILLER KARAOKE - with Charlotte the Harlot
THE VILLAGE INN

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS

DISCO

DADDY'S DEALS AND FREE POOL - Free Pool
THE FOX

WACKY WEDNESDAYS

BAR JESTER

WEDNESDAY LINE - Line Dance

THE VILLAGE INN

WEST MIDLANDS

DISCO & DJ with G. **RAINBOWS, COVENTRY**

STUDENT CLUB NIGHT

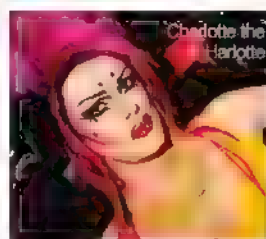
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

WACKY WEDNESDAYS - Ke. **RAINBOWS, COVENTRY**

EAST MIDLANDS

KARAOKE - 9pm till 3am. £2 drinks from 8pm till 11pm. Free Entry
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

GAMES NIGHT - Fri. **NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM**



September

1 8 15 22 29

BIRMINGHAM

on the middle floor
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

TANGO THURSDAYS - with Marty. Happy Hour 12noon-2am
THE VILLAGE INN

THROWBACK THURSDAY - £1 20 bombs and great music
MISSING

BAR JESTER

DISCO

SHOT EXCHANGE

THE CORE

DISCO

12.01 - with DJ James Levett. Open from Midnight until 5am with drinks from £1
GORGEOUS, WOLVES

THE KARAOKE LOUNGE

THE LION, WALSHALL

DISCO & DJ

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

THE BIGGEST GAY MIDNIGHT NIGHT IN THE MOLANDS!



MON 5TH SEPTEMBER
DRAG WITH NO NAME

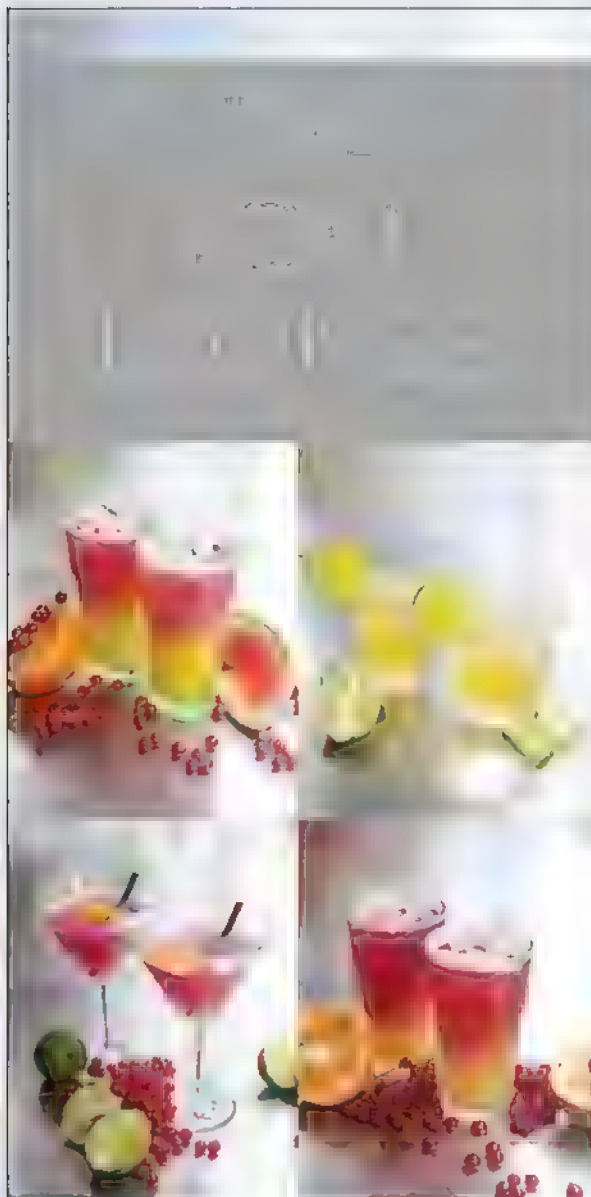
MON 3RD OCTOBER
VICKY JACKSON AS PINK

Jakulus

PLUS: HAPPY HOUR FROM 10PM // DRINKS FROM £1 ALL NIGHT

C:21

18-21 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE SY2 6AE. TEL: 01743 271821 WWW.C21SHREWSBURY.CO.UK



COCKTAIL FRIDAYS

SELECTED COCKTAILS
2-4-1 ALL NIGHT LONG

f loft.birmingham

@loftlounge2

loftbirmingham

0121 622 2444

September



BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two.

THE LOFT LOUNGE

ALL DAY EVERY DAY PRICES Du Pam takes over the weekend by playing the best of club classics house, R&B and all your favourites. Enjoy all day every day prices too!

Evening

BIG GAY FRIDAY - Party anthems all night long with Missing s Du James. Open until the early hours.

Evening

SING STAR SUPERSTAR WITH DJS & KARAOKE - with DJ Nikk

Evening

FREAKY FRIDAY - Big name cabaret at midnight. Open until 6am. **Fri 2 Sept** - Tanya Hyde **Fri 9 Sept** - Miss Penny **Fri 16 Sept** - Miss Jason. **Fri 23 Sept** - Drag With No Name. **Fri 26 Sept** - Sandra

THE VILLAGE INN

INFUSION - Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with DJ Corey. Drinks from £2. £2 entry

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

KICK START - Kick start the week end from 9pm til the early hours. Hosted by James.

Evening

L8R - With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 6am every Friday

THE VILLAGE INN

LIP GLOSS - **Fri 1 September** - A night for the trans* community, admirers and friends. With Miss Penny, Linda Legs, DJ Jason Green and stripper Extreme

Evening

MIDSEARS - **Fri 16 September** - A night for the bear community admirers and friends.

Evening

OLD SKOOL GARAGE - The first Friday of the month sees the Nightingale go back in time, playing some of the best in old skool garage. A night not to be missed.

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

SAATHI - **Fri 30 September** - Every last Friday monthly. South Asian Gay and Lesbian club night

Bollywood and Bhangra

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

SING STAR SUPERSTAR - with DJ Nikk every Friday - your chance to win cash!

Evening

VINTAGE FRIDAYS - a night of soul, funk, rock, motown, Northern Soul and all the classic favourites

THE LOFT LOUNGE

XXL - **Fri 16 September** - Men only night with DJ Pal. Morell. Early Bear offers until 11pm. Every 3rd Friday of each month

THE CORE CLUB

FUNK D UP - (alternate Sat/Sun)

Jolting funky

11am - 6am. £5 to 2am. £2

CLUB CHIC

KARAOKE

to start your week

THE FOX

RETRO FRIDAY

Du. Matt. Happy Hour until 2am

Open 9pm until 1am

BAR JESTER

WEST MIDLANDS

THANK FUNK ITS FRIDAY

Gorgeous residents spinning

house and classics. 12am - 6am.

GORGEOUS CLUB, WOLVERHAMPTON

BANG

11am - 11pm

11am - 11pm

THE LION, WALSALL

TV PARTY NIGHT - A.M.

for TV

Admirers. Every Friday night at

THE GREENHOUSE, DARLSTON

CLUB NIGHT - Drink promo

9.45. Free entry before 10pm

THE THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

FREE ENTRY FRIDAYS

11am - 11pm

11am - 11pm

Day open 9pm-3am

RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

FRIDAY SOCIAL - with DJ

& guests

THE BELL, STOURBRIDGE

WEEKLY CABARET - with DJ

Cabaret at 12.30am. Open late

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

START THE WEEKEND - F

tion before 11pm. Tan

PINK, STOKE-ON-TRENT

TFI FRIDAY - A fun and funky mix

ure of 70s high through to

current chart

BREWERY TAY, WORCESTER

EAST MIDLANDS

PINK POUNDER - Every Friday night

with DJ Snuckles. £8 entry. £1

drinks. Open 9pm-4.30am.

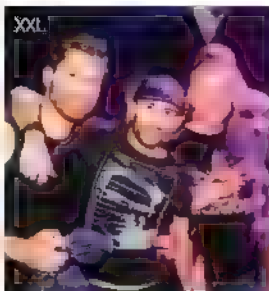
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

CLUB NIGHT - with DJ Rob

from midnight playing

art toppers

HELSING, LEICESTER





XXL LONDON

WEDNESDAYS 10PM - 3AM
SATURDAYS 10PM - 8AM
PULSE
No.1 INVICTA PLACE SE1 9UF

WWW.XXL-LONDON.COM

BIRMINGHAM

3RD FRIDAY EVERY MONTH
9PM - 3AM
THE CORE
135 SHERLOCK ST, BIRMINGHAM

FACEBOOK.COM/XXLLONDON

BIRMINGHAM

80S HITS - with DJ Dan from 2am it's back to the 80s
Eden Bar

THE ATTIC - Available for hire. Call the venue for more info - 0121 622 4256
Eden Bar

NAOMI SMALLS - Sat 10 September - A live PA from the RuPaul's Drag Race star
THE NIGHTINGALE

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT - Over 2 floors, 3 DJs. Open til 8am. With DJ Lotty & DJ Richard Moon. With DJ Tonie in The Village Underground.
THE VILLAGE INN

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT - Every Saturday, with loads of drinks promotions.
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

DANNY BEARD - Sat 3 September - The Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist returns to Eden.
Eden Bar

CULT - Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

LISA Q JONES - Sat 17 September - Charlie Hides' latest character returns to Birmingham's Eden Bar
Eden Bar

for a night of cabaret!

Eden Bar

KARAOKE & COCKTAILS - in The Attic, plus music from across the decades
Missing

LBR - With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 8am every Saturday
THE VILLAGE INN

MARY MAC - Sat 24 September - A night of cabaret with Mary Mac.
Eden Bar

SATURDAY SESSIONS With DJ Simon Baxter from 8pm.
THE LOFT LOUNGE

SATURS-FACTION - Welcome in the weekend with resident DJ, playing the best of everything.
SideWalk

SWAGGERLICIOUS - Every Saturday night (Room 4)
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

DANNY BEARD - Sat 10 September - Debut performance from Drag Idol 2016 winner Vieda Moppe
Eden Bar

YOUR DISCO NEEDS YOU - featuring the biggest remixes, absolute anthems, dance classics, disco, house and commercial with your host Twigg
Missing

THE BREAKFAST CLUB - Eden Bar

CLUB CHIC

FABULOUS SUNDAYS

THE CORE CLUB

DJ PARTY NIGHT - Open from 3pm

THE FOX

#JUST SAYING - Get

BAR JESTER

KARAOKE - Every Sat night

THE WELLINGTON

THE LION, WALSALL

CLUB NIGHT - Drink promotions

THE LION, WALSALL

CLUB NIGHT - Drink promotions

THE LION, WALSALL

CLUB NIGHT - Drink promotions

THE LION, WALSALL

CLUB NIGHT - Drink promotions

THE LION, WALSALL

CLUB NIGHT - Drink promotions

THE LION, WALSALL

CLUB NIGHT - Drink promotions

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CLUB NIGHT - Drink promotions

THE LION, WALSALL

CLUB NIGHT - Drink promotions

THE THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT - Cheers

RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

THE BELL, STOURBRIDGE

NOT TO MISS - Free adm.

PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

WEEKLY CABARET - with DJ

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

EAST MIDLANDS

BIG WEEKEND PARTY NIGHT - 10pm til 8am. Free entry before 11pm, £3 before 1am and £5 after. **THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON**

CLUB NIGHT - with DJ Nik P. 11am floor fillers and 6
HELIX, LEICESTER

THE LION, WALSALL

CLUB NIGHT - Drink promotions

THE LION, WALSALL

CLUB NIGHT - Drink promotions

THE LION, WALSALL

CLUB NIGHT - Drink promotions

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CLUB NIGHT - Drink promotions

THE LION, WALSALL

CLUB NIGHT - Drink promotions

THE LION, WALSALL

CLUB NIGHT - Drink promotions

UK PLEASURE BOYS

ASTOUNDING CABARET ENTERTAINMENT AT THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB

RRP £13.00 PER TICKET

20% OFF

COUPON CODE PLEASURE PARTY

11210 LOCATIONS

CHECK THIS OUT

- Glass of bubbly upon arrival
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- High production value male strip show
- Special effects and acrobatics
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- Performances from the UK Pleasure Boys
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RRP From £13 per ticket. 20% off when booking online using coupon code PLEASURE PARTY. Over 18's only. Terms can be found at www.ukpleasureboys.co.uk

September

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

MISS STAN SUPERSTAR WITH DISCO & KARAOKE - with DJ Nikk. Every Sunday
Eden Bar

LOCAL CABARET - with Charlotte the Harlotte. Showcasing the best of the Midlands cabaret circuit every Sunday.
THE VILLAGE INN

MISS PENNY'S SUPERB SIZE SUNDAYS
Cabaret every Sunday hosted by the one and only Miss Penny on stage at 8.30pm and 10.30pm
Eden Bar

SUPER SUNDAY DINNER

SideWalk

CHILL OUT

THE FOX

SUNDAY IS FUNDAY - with B

BAR JESTER

WEST MIDLANDS

MARTY'S PARTY 9pm-4am - Fun & Games. Karaoke. Prizes and all round mayhem. Drinks from £2
GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

THE PARTY LOUNGE - Re

LION BAR & CLUB, WALSALL

KARAOKE & DJ - A

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

RAINBOW & DOVE, LEICESTER

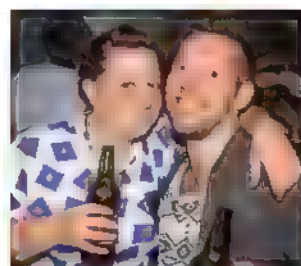
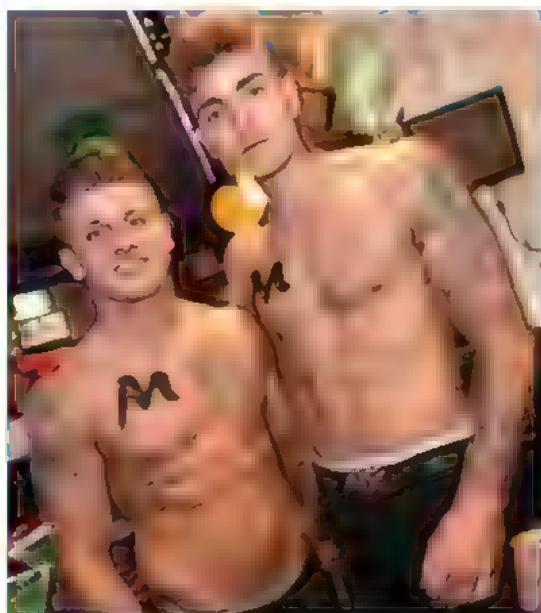
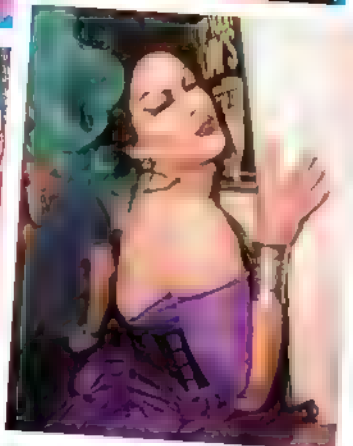
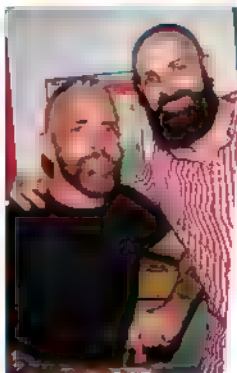
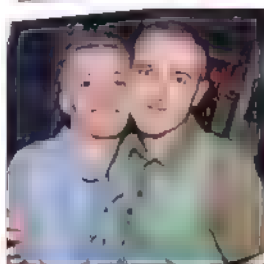
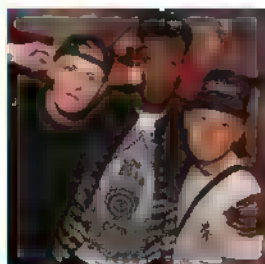
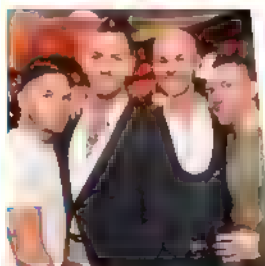
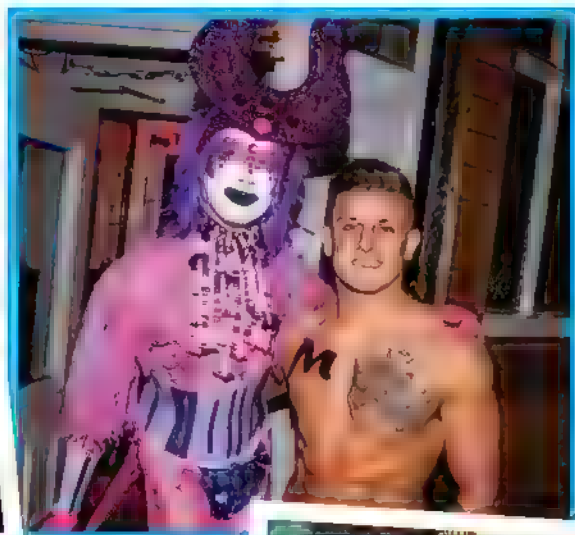
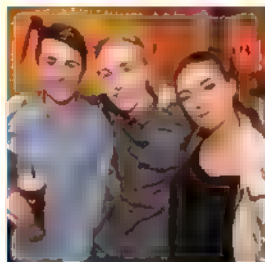
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

EAST MIDLANDS

BRUNCH CLUB - F

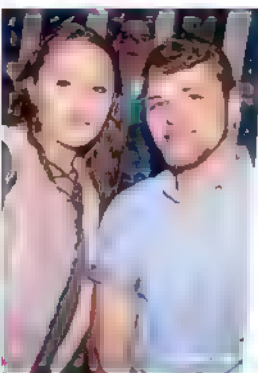
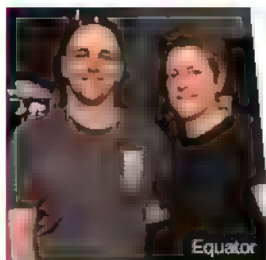
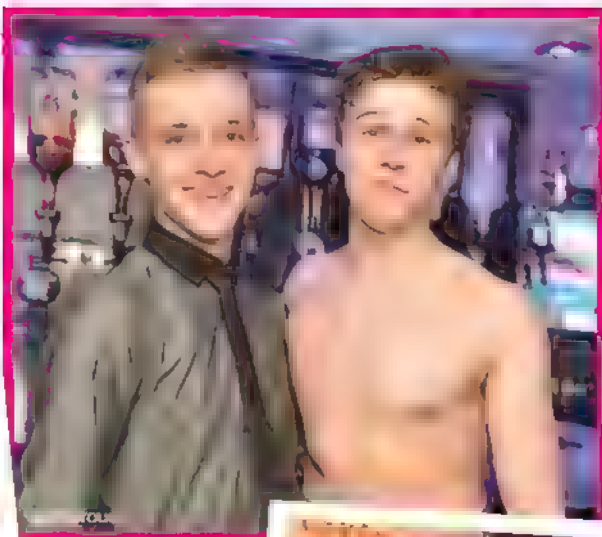
RAINBOW & DOVE, LEICESTER

Topless torsos and Twiggy at Brum's Missing Bar!



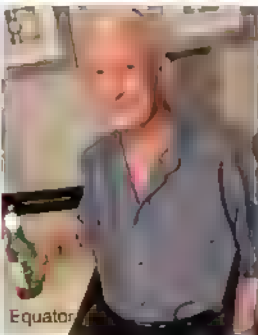
Pictures by Laura Byrne

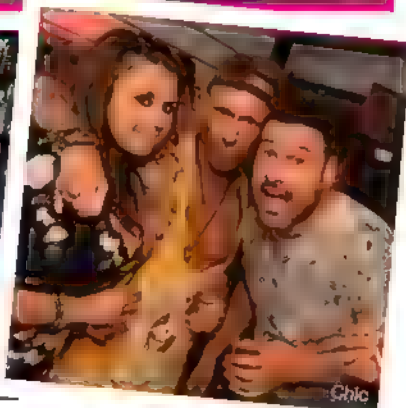
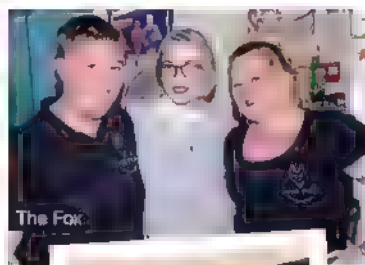
Out and about in **Birmingham's Gay Village!**



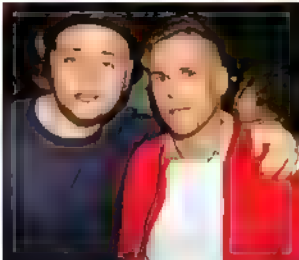
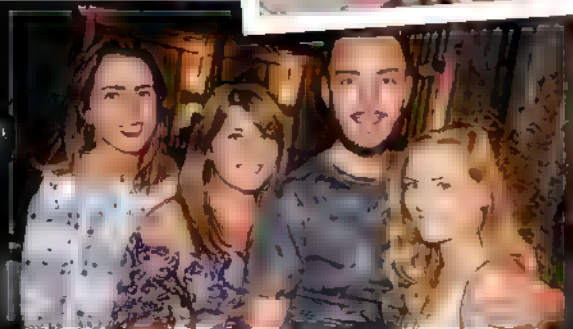
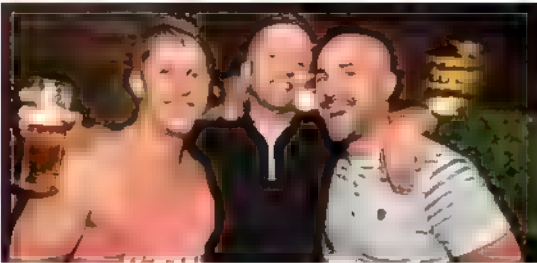
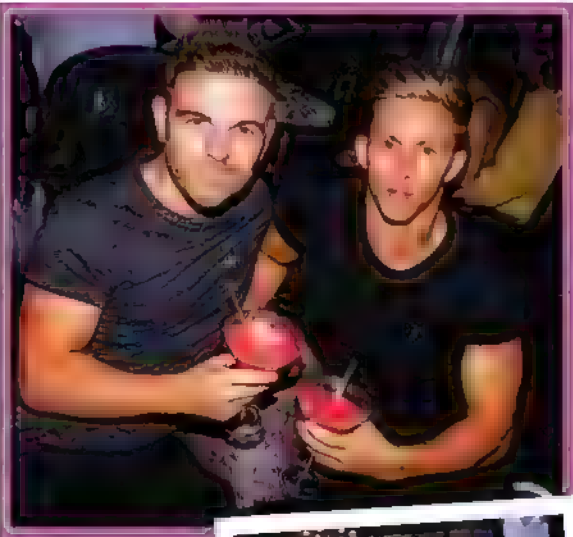
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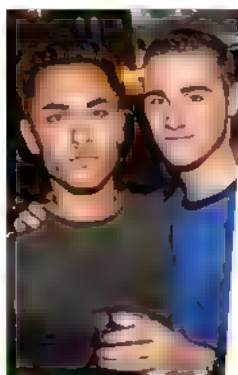
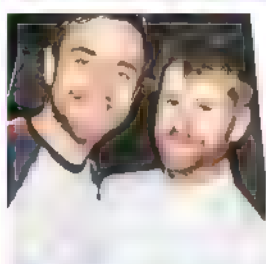
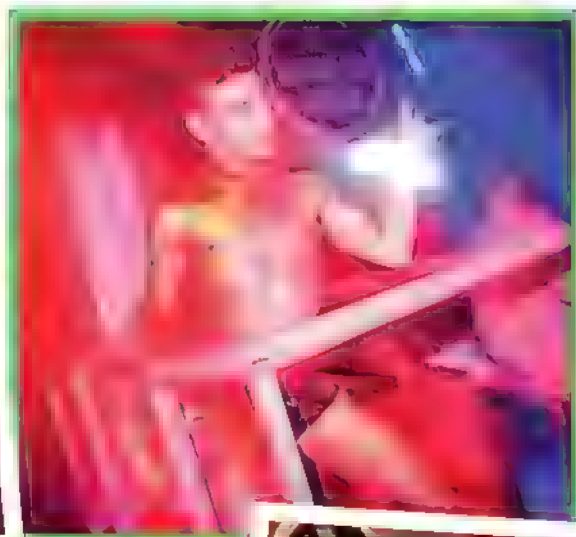


Cocktails kickstart the night at **The Loft Lounge!**



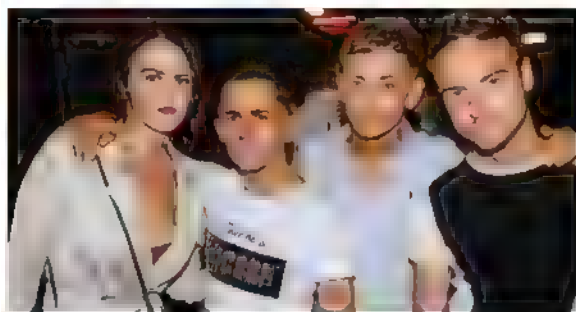
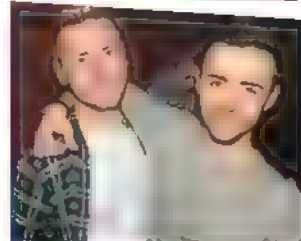
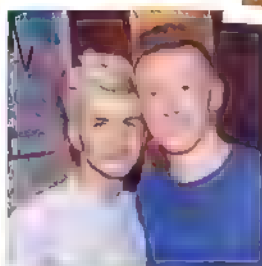
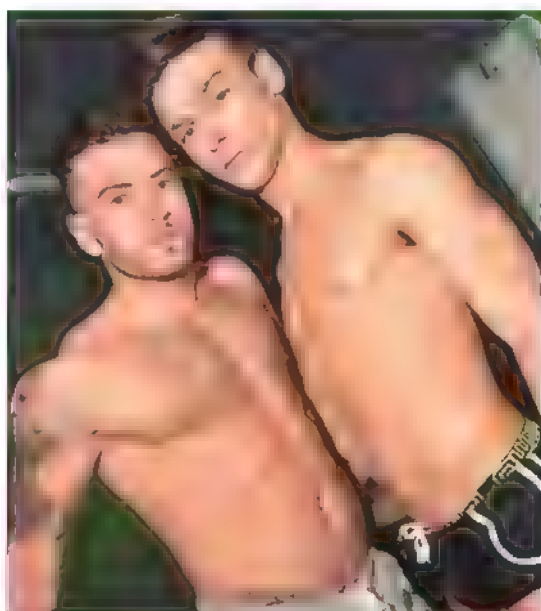
Pictures by Laura Byrne

Drag, dancing and drinks at **The Nightingale Club!**



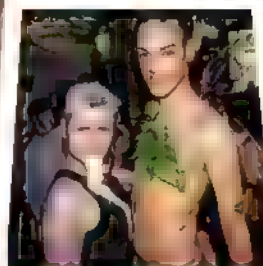
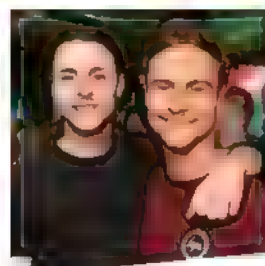
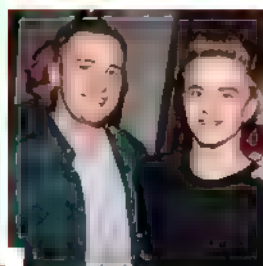
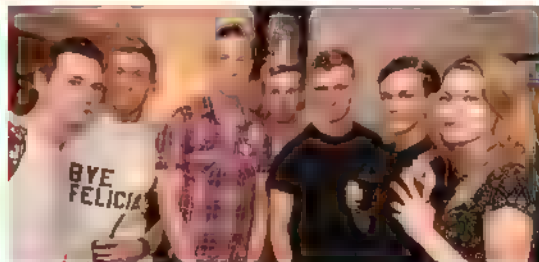
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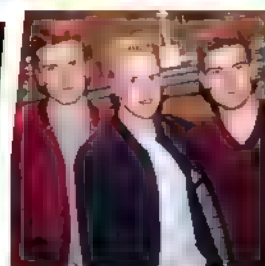
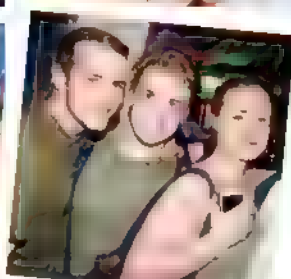
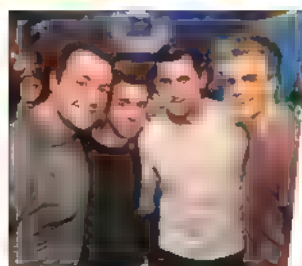
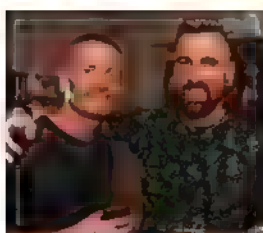
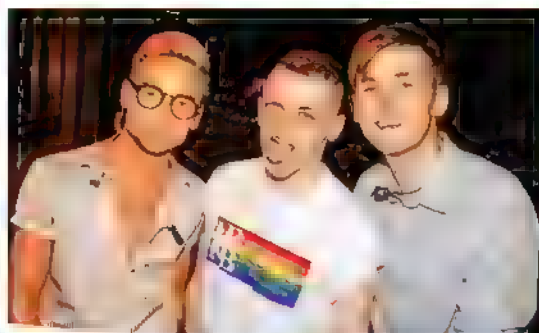


Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

The Village Inn: The Brum bar with the best beats!



More great photos on facebook
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WWW.VILLAGEBIRMINGHAM.CO.UK

THE VILLAGE INN SEPTEMBER



TANYA
HYDE

MISS
PENNY

MISS
JASON

DRAG WITH
NO NAME

SANDRA
LONDON

FRIDAY 2ND

FRIDAY 9TH

FRIDAY 16TH

FRIDAY 23RD

FRIDAY 30TH



VILLAGEINNBIRMINGHAM

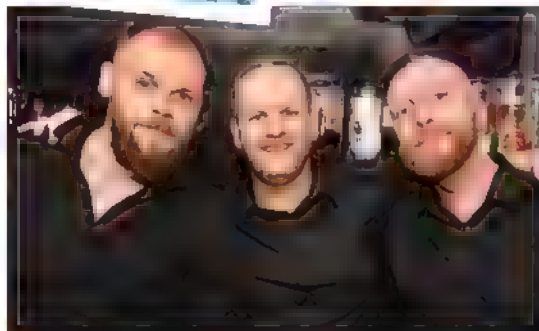
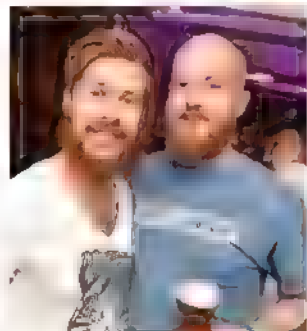
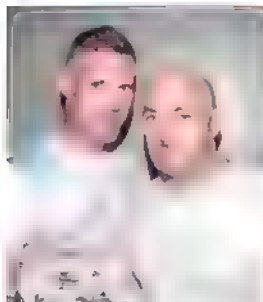
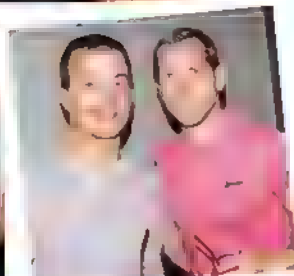
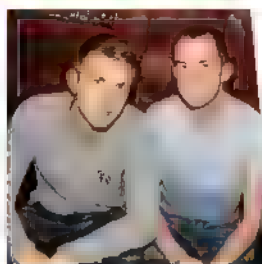
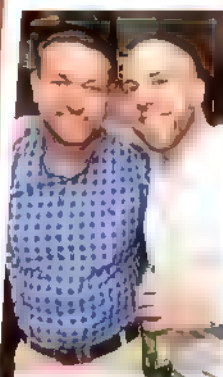
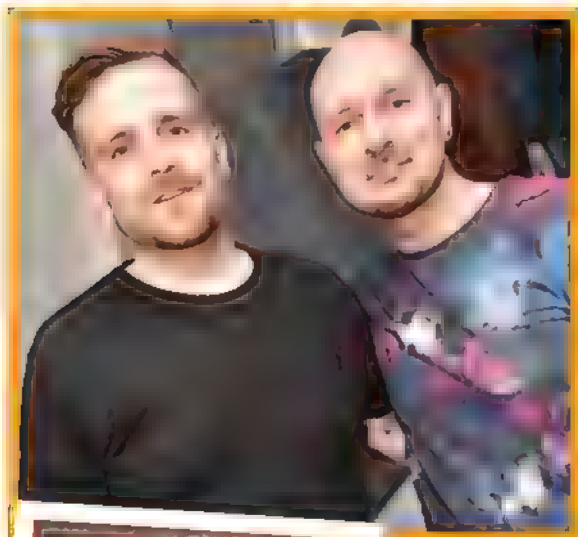


@VILLAGEBRUM



THEVILLAGEBIRMINGHAM

Eden Bar brings out the best of Birmingham's boys



Pictures by Laura Byrne

ENTERTAINMENT FOR SEPTEMBER

eden

THURS 1ST

LA VOIX

With your hostess Miss Penny CABARET 8PM-11PM
DJ JASON GREEN MALE STRIPPER 12PM-2AM

LIP GLOSS

SAT 3RD

DANNY BEARD

THURSDAY 8TH

COMEDY TRIPLE TREAT

YOUR COMEDY TRIPLE TREAT



Craig Dingley



Francesca Frangou

SAT 10TH

VILDA MOPPE

THURS 15TH

LA VOIX

FRI 16TH

MIDSBEERS

SAT 17TH

LISA Q JONES

THURS 22ND

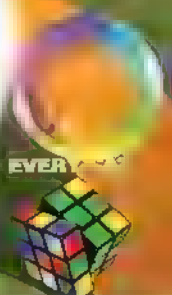
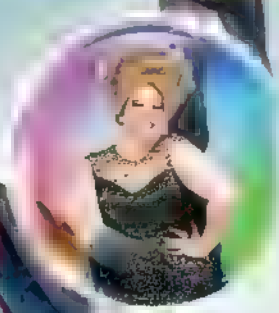
BRENDA LABEAU

SAT 24TH

MARY MAC

THURS 29TH

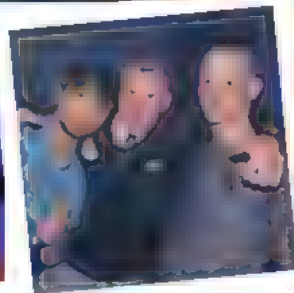
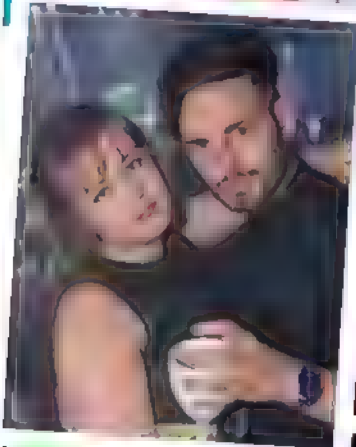
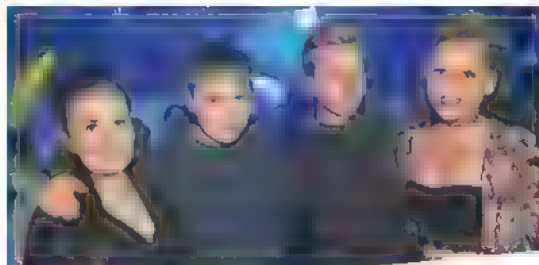
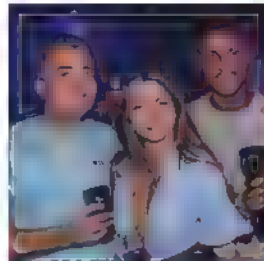
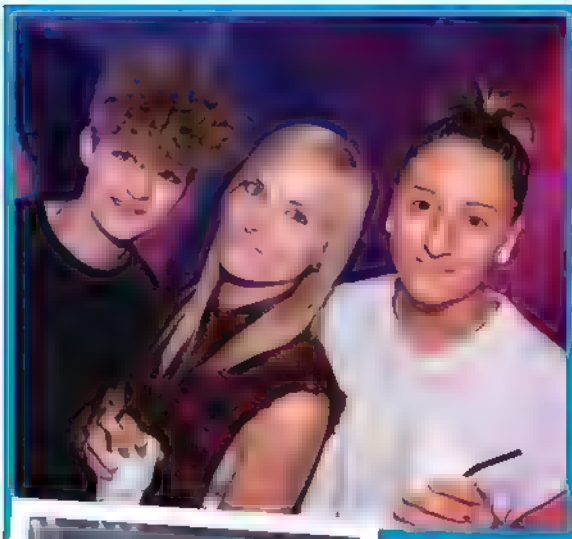
CHARLIE HIDE



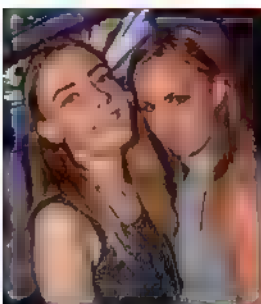
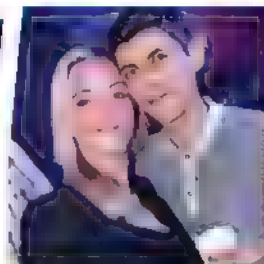
80s HITS WITH DISCO DJ MIKE
KARAOKE & DANCE SONGS
WITH FRIENDLY
WINKAS OFFERS

80s HITS WITH
JOAN
KARAOKE & DANCE SONGS
WITH FRIENDLY
WINKAS OFFERS

It's a great night out at Wolverhampton's **Gorgeous**



More great photos on **facebook**
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Pictures by **Jonathan Azzopardi**

SATURDAY 1ST OCTOBER

Happy Birthday
GORGEOUS

11PM - 6AM

REGGIE & BOLLIE



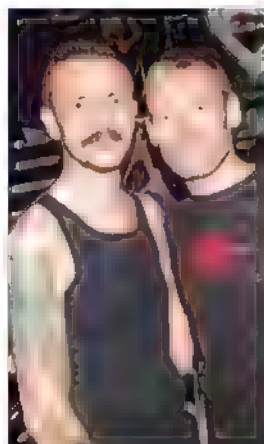
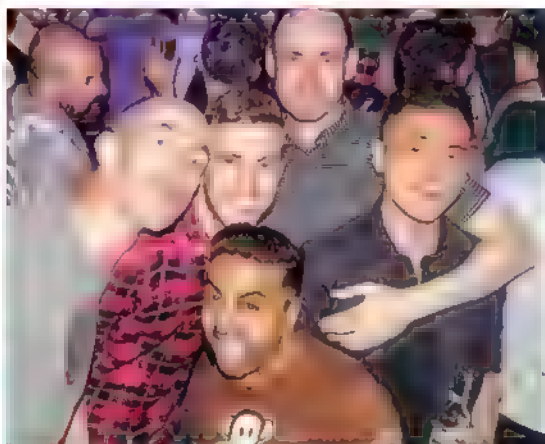
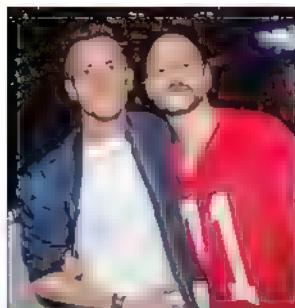
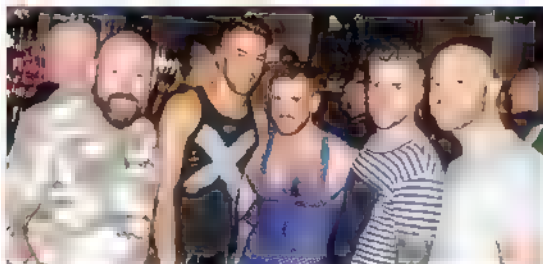
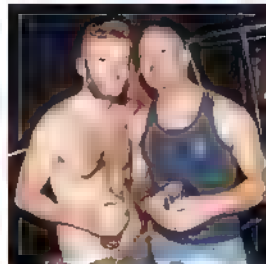
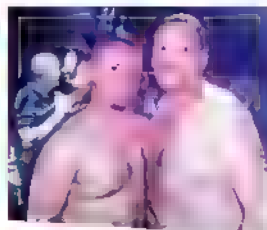
£1
ENTRY
84
MIDNIGHT
£1
DRINKS
'TIL
MIDNIGHT

DJ JADE JETT

DANCE | CHART | POP | PARTY | RNB

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GORGEOUS SCHOOL STREET WOLVERHAMPTON, WV1 4LF. 01902 771122

Birmingham's men-only night **XXL** proves popular



GAY BARS AND CLUBS IN THE MIDLANDS...

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BOLTZ CLUB
Lowe Essex St B5 6QP
Tel: 0121 666 6888

CLUB CHIC
28 Horsefair, B1 1DD
Tel: 0121 666 6806

THE CORE
Sherlock St B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 2797
www.thecoreclub.co.uk

EDEN BAR
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
www.theedenbar.co.uk
See pictures on page 76

EQUATOR
Hurst St B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 5177

FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St B5 6QJ
Tel: 0121 622 1452

THE FOX
17 Lower Essex St
B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

LOFT LOUNGE
142 Bromsgrove St,
B5 6RG
Tel: 0121 622 444
www.theloftlounge.co.uk
See pictures on page 69

MISSING BAR
Hurst St, B5 6NU
Tel: 0121 622 4256
www.missingbar.co.uk
See pictures on page 76

THE NIGHTINGALE
Kent St, B'ham
B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
www.nightingaleclub.co.uk
See pictures on page 76

RSVP (formerly Queer Street)
Hurst St B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 2444

SIDEWALK
Hurst Street,
B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 666 6800
www.sideshowbirmingham.co.uk

THE VILLAGE INN
Hurst St, B'ham
B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
www.villageinnbirmingham.co.uk
See pictures on page 72

THE WELLINGTON
72 Bristol St B5 7AH
Tel: 0121 622 2592

West Midlands

COVENTRY

RAINBOWS
Short St CV1 2LW
Tel: 02476 551738

GLOUCESTER

THE WESTGATE
Westgate Street
GL1 2NF
Tel: 01452 690045

KIDDERMINSTER

ROYAL EXCHANGE
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C21 CLUB
Abbey Foregate.
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.c21bar.co.uk
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THE PEACH TREE
21 Abbey Foregate.
Tel: 01743 355056
www.thepeachtree.co.uk
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SPIRIT
22 Abbey Foregate.
SY2 6AE
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STOKE-ON-TRENT

GOSSIP
4 Hope Street.
ST1 6BT
Tel: 01782 204957

PINK
93 Stafford Street.
ST1 1LS Tel: 01782 272772

STOURBRIDGE

THE BELL
20 Market St, DY8 1AG
Tel: 07826 518478

STRAFORD upon AVON

NO7
Prowd Crowd. 1st Mon
monthly 7 Windsor St.
Tel: 07787 642510

TELFORD

THREE FURNACES
30 Bridgnorth Rd.
Madeley TF7 4JB
Tel: 01902 588521

WALSALL

THE LION
Birchills St.
Tel: 01925 617444

THE RED LION
Bury St, W1 1WY
Tel: 01925 617444

WOLVERHAMPTON

BOND STREET TAVERN
14 Bond St. WV2 4AS
Tel: 07825 305050

GORGEOUS
50-52, 14-16, 2-4, 2-4, 2-4
Tel: 01902 224244
See pictures on page 76

THE WHITE HART
Worcester St.
WV2 4LQ
Tel: 01902 423998

WORCESTER

THE FLAG
50 Lowesmoor
WR1 2SG
Tel: 01905 780467

VELVET CLUB
Angar Row
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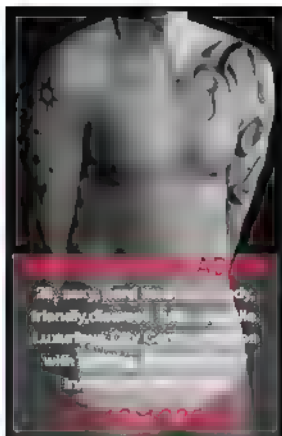
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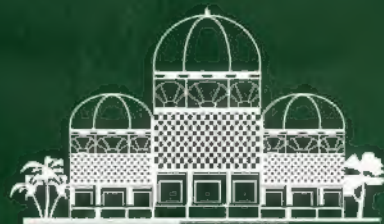
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THE LIFE OF A THIRTYSOMETHING GAY by Stephen Spinks

'Mirror, mirror on the wall...'

"I look like a spud!"

"A spud?!" I ask bemused.

"A spud....a really fat spud!"

We laugh hysterically whilst stuffing our faces with Lindt chocolate and getting ready to settle down in our picnic chairs for the outdoor cinema night at our local National Trust property.

"I am, I'm so round," my mate says, popping another Lindt into his mouth, "I'm so fat."

Not feeling remotely competitive, we begin to compare our relative 'fatness', and after much fierce debate, concede that we both have grown a little bigger - although he is more round overall and therefore possibly more spud-like. We conclude that I have the worst kind of 'fatness'; tall and skinny but with a round, thirtysomething paunch and love handles developed through consuming too much wine, chocolate, M&S Dine In For £10 and general single-life decadence.

As we sat there watching the fabulous Maggie Smith in the film version of Alan Bennett's play, *The Lady In The Van*, we continued to work our way through our calorific picnic, drank all the wine (well, they were miniatures) and helped ourselves to tea and cake in the interval. Of course, the next day we worked through the leftovers too - "well, it would be a shame to waste them" - rather than throw them in the bin or give them to the homeless man who spends most of his time 'living' in the doorway of Body Shop in Stratford (or Jo Malone when he fancies a change).

By Sunday evening, sat on my own, popping a couple of Oreos whilst watching Penny Dreadful on Now TV, it occurred to me I'd fallen into a rut. I was marching headlong into a spud-filled future with the risk that, once there, I would end up like one of those bad Channel Five documentaries I'm always too scared to watch. You know the ones, about people so big, they have to get their houses knocked down just so that they can get out for their gastric band surgery... I realised I felt like shit.

The next day, I did what I always do in moments of self-induced crisis... went shopping. While flicking through the beautifully merchandised racks in C&A, I was presented with a much-needed, endorphin-inducing gift to ease my pain - an emerald green autumnal jumper and a pair of gorgeous new jeans. Picking up my usual size small and waist 32", I parted with my cash, celebrated with a latte and eventually made it home to try on my new-found goodies. Only this time, I found

myself doing an Edina Monsoon, as I shimmied into the clothes. The top felt like a corset and the jeans only did up if I stopped breathing altogether. As if in a state of confusion, I headed for the mirror, seeking an explanation for this unplanned irritation. It felt like that moment when, after years of looking fabulous, the voice behind the looking glass fesses up to the queen and promptly informs her with brutal honesty that Snow White is now the fairest one of all, and that the queen is to be thrown onto the dustbin heap of beauties and consigned to a life of Oreo-eating loneliness. Well, you get my drift! Anyway, much like in that land Far Far Away, this queen was not taking it lying down!

I dusted off my running shoes, dug out my expandable joggers and waddled down the Stratford Greenway feeling like a beached whale, with all the bits that shouldn't be moving wobbling in tandem, as if heralding to any unfortunate passer-by that clearly I am an ashamed over-eater who should be beaten with sticks. I was Cerise Lannister holding my head up high to cries of 'shame'. But in that moment, it dawned on me (between gasping for breaths) that unlike some people with medical problems, low self-esteem or dodgy genes, I couldn't pin my sudden 'growth spurt' on anything other than myself. My genes are okay as far as I know, and from my last Wellman check-up all was tickety-boo. No. I realised it had become all too easy to reach out for the biscuits and that tasty triple mud chocolate M&S dessert... or two. But how could I have got myself out of shape so quickly?

Then I blamed being single. Naturally, there was no one at home to stop me stuffing my face. Yet that only made me more ashamed. I realised simply that I had abdicated my own adult responsibilities - and not for the first time. I put all those delicious goodies in my mouth and no one could have stopped me. Nor did anyone have the right to tell me to stop. It was my fault and I needed to grow up and do something about it.

So, much like a sulking teenager, I have continued to run, now without shouts of shame, and tweaked my diet and reduced my portion sizes. I've even rediscovered the dinner table and given the sofa a break. But as my weight starts to strip away - as I keep that beautiful green jumper firmly in my sights - I still wonder if this is the start of a new chapter, or merely a temporary respite in a life of growing decadence where it's all too easy to go astray.

ON THE BALL with Steve Ball

Better out than in



On a family holiday in Mallorca last month, my husband and I, along with my gay brother and his partner, were presented with a cake resplendent with candles and iced lettering spelling out Happy Gay Uncles Day. It was a lovely surprise from two of our nieces, greeted with applause from the rest of the family.

How times have changed, both in my own family and in society at large. Thirty years ago, my sexuality would never have been discussed or even acknowledged in front of the children. In 1988, the Tory government felt the same, using Section 28 to prohibit local authorities from promoting homosexuality or gay 'pretended family relationships'.

In a huge step that shows just how far we've all moved on, Justine Greening, the Conservative Education Secretary with responsibility for schools across the country, used Twitter to announce, on the same day as London Pride, that she's in a same-sex relationship, and that "Sometimes, you're better off out". She has joined 35 other MPs and peers in making the UK Parliament the gayest in the world.

Yet despite this progress, many LGBT people remain in the closet, wary of the reactions they will provoke if they do come out. Some of them fear hostile responses from their families or employers, but many lack the confidence in themselves to let the world know who they really are.

Gay Uncles Day is just one way of making it easier to come out, and to make us more visible and confident amongst our loved ones. It could also help society and ourselves be more comfortable with who we really are.

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